

The Mafia and Freemasonry

Rotating Compass & Square

Mazzini

**Grand Master Guiseppi Mazzini 33°
Founder of Italian Freemasonry
Revolutionary Terrorist Leader
Sicilian Gangster
Mafia Founder**

**Mazzini Authorizes Thefts, Arson, Poisoning.
Mazzini Autorizza Furti, Incendi, Avvelenamenti.
M.A.F.I.A.**

**Andrew Varna
World Underworld, Page 58
Museum Press
London, 1957**

'A Web of Favoritism and Corruption'

Five Points of Fellowship Brother, foot to foot teaches you that you should, whenever asked, go on a brother's errand, if within the length of your cable-tow, even if you should have to go barefoot and bareheaded. Knee to knee, that you should always remember a Master Mason in your devotions to Almighty God. Breast to breast, that you should keep the Master Mason's secrets, when given to you in charge as such, as secure and inviolable in your breast as they were in his own before communicated to you. Hand to back, that

you should support a Master Mason behind his back as before his face. Mouth to ear, that you should support his good name as well behind his back as before his face.

**'The Five Points of Fellowship'
Master Master Initiation Ritual**

You must conceal all crimes of your brother Masons...and should you be summoned as a witness against a brother Mason be always sure to shield him...It may be perjury to do this, it is true, but you're keeping your obligations.

**Ronayne
Handbook of Masonry, page 183**

Fraternal Order of Police

The committee feels that the link between Cosa Nostra and institutions is mostly through the "Massoneria" (freemasonry):

The fundamental terrain on which the link between Cosa Nostra with public officials and private professions was created and reinforced is the Massoneria. The Massoneria bond serves to keep the relationship continuous and organic. The admission of members of Cosa Nostra, even at high levels, in Massoneria is not an occasional or episodic one, but a strategic choice. The oath of allegiance to Cosa Nostra remains the pivot point around which "uomini d'onore" (men of honor) are prominently held. But the Massoneria associations offer the mafia a formidable instrument to extend their own power, to obtain favors and privileges in every field: both for the conclusion of big business and "fixing trials", as many collaborators with justice have revealed.

Commissione Parlamentare d'inchiesta sul fenomeno della mafia e sulle altre associazioni criminali similari

**(CPA: Commissione Parlamentare Antimafia)
Relazione sui Rapporti tra Mafia e Politica, Page 59
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Law Enforcement in Italy and Europe against mafia and organized crime

Umberto Santino

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Premise: The Sicilian Mafia as a local and transnational criminality and the proliferation of criminals of the mafia type

The Sicilian Mafia is probably the best known form of organized crime, so much so, that mass media represents it as sort of a universal Evil. The "octopus" that directly or indirectly controls all criminal activities: from drug to arms trafficking and now even radioactive substances. In reality the Sicilian Mafia can be considered a "winning model" of organized crime (at least up until now) due to its complexity and long-standing role in society, but

care must be taken against stereotypes that always see the octopus' tentacles everywhere.

The mafia's strength lies in its capacity to be both local and international, in the sense that it grew to a worldwide level without losing its roots in Sicilian society. Its strong-point has historically been the capacity to combine continuity with innovation: it has never abandoned its traditional activities (extortion for example) but knew how to choose the most profitable activities and become a part of them.

Immigration to the United States during the end of the XIX century has also had a role in the formation of this "cultural elasticity and adaptability", even though, at first the connections between Sicilian Mafiosos and Sicilian-Americans were rare. Only after the second world war has the connection between them grown closer and drug trafficking has "welded" Sicily to the United States, but both groups remain autonomous. In the last few decades the Sicilian Mafia has grown on the national, European and international level. It has trafficked heroin with the Corso-Marsigliesi (the French Connection), with Turkish, Middle East and Asiatic clans and now deals cocaine with the Latin American Cartels. International channels are used for money laundering from Switzerland to the tax havens worldwide. At first the mafia organization was only present in the western part of Sicily, now it is found in all of Sicily and in many Italian regions, countries of Europe and in the world. Besides this spread of the mafia, the development of illegal activities, the formation and strengthening of other criminal groups similar to the mafia are causes for worry. Many criminal organizations are present in Italy: the 'Ndrangheta in Calabria, the Camorra in Campania, the Sacra Corona Unita in Puglia and other groups. On the international level, besides historical groups like the Japanese Yakusa and the Chinese Triads, new organizations like the South American Cartels and the Russian Mafia have formed.

Today's criminal market is complex because the criminal activities are more articulated and the criminal groups have grown in number. Therefore, it is misleading to sustain that the mafia or any other criminal organization has a monopoly on world crime. There isn't a monarchy, a Number One, in the organized crime world, but there are many republics that variously interact and are protagonists of the international division of criminal labor.

Today's society produces criminality because of some of its main characteristics (the contradictions will be dealt with at the end of the chapter) and the intertwining of legal and illegal economies,

that have grown closer, as have criminals in the social and institutional context. Drugs and money laundering are the best known aspects of today's criminal activities, but the most devastating is probably the connection between politics and crime. This mixture between illegal and legal, criminal and institutional, is the heart of the mafia's historical model, but it has grown and spread independent of the presence of Sicilian mafiosos or Sicilian-Americans. It is not the mafia that has invaded the world, it is the world that has produced more and more groups and organizations of the mafia type.

In light of all this, the actual judicial system, both national and international are greatly inadequate. Not only are they behind the times but the repressive measures are often counteractions that can not debilitate phenomena that proliferate due to the system's contradictions.

1. The laws regarding organized crime in Italy

1.1. 114 laws in ten years

Only in the last few years has Italian legislation prepared itself to deal with the great increase in the mafia's activities and with other forms of organized crime. In ten years, from 1982-1992, 114 laws regarding organized crime, directly or indirectly, were introduced. All of these laws are connected with terrible crimes that shocked both local and international public opinion, and are considered the offspring of the emergency situation, that is, they are answers to the criminal challenge and not part of a coherent law enforcement program.

The first general Italian law, the so called Rognoni-La Torre Law (named after the backers of two proposals that were later unified, the Christian-democrat Minister Virginio Rognoni and the Communist leader Pio La Torre, assassinated April 30, 1982) or "Antimafia law", was approved September 13, 1982, after the assassination of General-Prefect Dalla Chiesa, and for the first time defined mafia as a specific type of organized crime. According to article 416 bis, introduced by the new law,

The organization is of the mafia type when its components use intimidation, subjection and, consequentially, silence (omertà), to commit crimes, directly or indirectly acquire the management or the control of businesses, concessions, authorizations, public contracts and public services to obtain either unjust profits or advantages for themselves or others.

Article 416 of the Italian Penal Code that has its origins in the fascist period (1930), defines simple organized crime on the basis of the presence of three elements: the associative bond, the organized structure, the criminal program. Organized crime of the mafia type presents additional specific characteristics: the associative bond has such an intimidating capacity to cause subjection and omertà. It is at such a level that it may be considered a system, an absolute rule of obedience and a law of silence, that first of all demands, from the entire population, the refusal to collaborate with law enforcement. An actual submission to the power of the mafia.

Besides the creation of this type of crime, the most important and original points of the new antimafia law are the measures taken to control the origins of patrimonies, that allow the confiscation of possessions of illicit origin, and the explicit authorization to subcontract public works.

The role of Alto Commissario (High Commissioner) was also created in September 1982 to fight the mafia, giving a government official the power to coordinate the fight, that Prefect Dalla Chiesa so vainly requested. The High Commissioner's first headquarters was Palermo, and later Rome, and was substantially useless and canceled in 1992.

During the last few years other provisions intervened. The most significant are: the measures taken against the money laundering, the provisions for those mafiosos that collaborate with law enforcement officials, the so called "pentiti" (repenters), the revision of the procedure code for the treatment of mafiosos, the creation of the DIA (Direzione Investigativa Antimafia: Antimafia Investigative Administration) and the DNA (Direzione Nazionale Antimafia or Superprocura: National Antimafia Administration) and the integration of criminal association of the mafia type, that includes those that interfere with the right to vote.

The crime of laundering money of illicit origin was introduced in Italian legal system in 1978 with article 648 bis of the Penal Code, limited to the profits obtained from aggravated robbery, aggravated extortion and kidnapping for extortion. Article 23 of the law n° 55 of March 19, 1990, extended the crime to the capital obtained from the production and sale of drugs. Later, the law by decree of May 3, 1991 n° 143, converted into law n° 197 of July 5, 1991, introduced "emergency actions to limit the use of cash and bearer securities in transactions and prevent the utilization of the financial system in money laundering". These measures decree that sums above

20,000,000 lire must be transferred either in cash or through approved mediators or by means explicitly indicated, dictate rules that regulate finance companies and in exception of the right to secrecy, allow the exchange of information between control organizations.

Law n° 328, published August 28, 1993 in the "Gazzetta Ufficiale", repealed in part the European convention concerning money laundering. With this new regulation, the crime money laundering regards any case of reinvestment of profits obtained from any type of crime and therefore, not only the four crimes covered by the previous laws (that is, drug dealing, kidnapping, aggravated robbery and extortion). There are still a few problems to be resolved. A central data bank to keep track of all the financial operations is lacking, so sums can be kept under 20,000,000 lire and therefore, avoid controls. The companies registry is lacking, even though it was established by law in 1942, so it is impossible to follow transactions between firms.

In 1990, other measures were passed regarding the exclusion of those condemned of serious crimes (drug dealing, kidnapping, massacres, mafia member) from the benefits given to prisoners by the "Gozzini Law" (the benefits are home imprisonment and limited liberty), detention in prison while awaiting trial for those suspected of being guilty of serious crimes, regulations concerning wire tapping, reduction of the punishment for those that collaborate with justice, the prolongation of preliminary investigations from a period of six months to one year, the modification of the terms of the prescription of crimes.

The law by decree n° 345 of October 29, 1991 was converted into law n° 410 of December 30, 1991 and established the DIA, to coordinate the police forces and conform the organization of investigative services with the goal of preventing and repressing organized crime.

At the same time, law by decree n° 367 of November 20, 1991, converted into law n° 8 of January 20, 1992, established the district antimafia administrations and the DNA. One of the candidates for the position of Superprocuratore (General Attorney) was Giovanni Falcone, assassinated with his wife and three bodyguards, May 23, 1992, while driving on the highway that connects Palermo's airport Punta Raisi to Palermo (the Capaci massacre).

After the Capaci massacre and the massacre of Via D'Amelio, where Judge Paolo Borsellino and five of his bodyguards were assassinated July 19, 1992, new emergency measures entitled "Urgent modifications to the new Penal Proceedings Code and actions against organized crime of the mafia type" were taken. The decree n° 306 of June 8, 1992, converted into law n° 356 of August 7, 1992, introduces significant modifications to the Penal Proceedings Code approved in 1988, that replaced the investigative rite with a prosecutive rite. The modifications regard the way proof is acquired and constituted: for common criminals the proof is constituted during the debate, while for mafiosos, due to their capacity to intimidate, proof can be drawn from other proceedings.

The new law introduces further preventive measures for "pentiti", arranges severe prison terms for mafiosos, exasperates preventive measures regarding patrimonies and has two clauses regarding elections. The first, article 11 bis, that integrates article 416 bis, states that it is organized crime of the mafia type when intimidation is used: to hinder or deny the right to vote or to obtain votes. The second regulation is article 11 ter, that punishes the "political-mafia exchange": when a member of the mafia promises to obtain votes for a politician in exchange for money. The original form of the law included the promise to obtain concessions, authorizations, contracts, public financing, or any means of gaining illegal profits. Law n° 16 of January 18, 1992, that also deals with elections and limits the passive electorate, states that if a person undergoes penal proceedings for organized crime of the mafia type and/or other crimes related to organized crime, he must be suspended or removed from the position of regional, provincial or city counsellor, President of the regional, provincial or city council, and other administrative responsibilities.

The regulative framework that began taking shape during the last decade was fairly chaotic, nonetheless, a few fundamental principles were set up.

The first was the double track regime. The Penal Code Procedure was applied to common criminals and not to mafiosos, for which different prison treatment was expected.

The second principle regards the legislation that rewards mafiosos that collaborate with justice. It was introduced for terrorists but has been greatly expanded in the last few years.

The third principle was the reversal of the charges against the person investigated as a mafioso, that must prove the legitimate

origin of goods and monies in his possession. But the Constitutional Court, with a sentence of February 1994, declared the latter unconstitutional.

Italian antimafia legislation, judged on the whole, is behind the times, was created as an emergency response, is inadequate in comprehending the mafia phenomenon and is characterized by the prevalence of symbolic-measures.

Organized crime of the mafia type has existed since the XIX century (1) but only with the law of 1982 was the crime of mafia association introduced. Since the second half of the 1950s the mafiosos, either directly or through their accomplices, became legitimate entrepreneurs, especially in construction, but only with the law of 1982 can these "mafia enterprises" be touched (2). Since the 1970's, the financial size of these mafia groups, both in terms of their capability of accumulating capital and utilization of the financial system for money laundering, is significant, but only with recent measures can they begin to be fought (3).

The responsive measures are almost always taken after the mafia has committed a terrible crime (murder of an important person, massacres) through laws by decree, that is, the due legal response to urgent situations, eventhough they have been greatly used in the last few years to escape the red tape of the parliamentary course. This is mainly due to the idea that mafia must be handled as an emergency. According to official government stereotypes, the mafia only exists when they murder someone, it is a problem only when they shoot someone influential, it's a national emergency when they murder an important government official and/or a famous person like Dalla Chiesa, Falcone and Borsellino. Instead, mafia has been a continuous part of our society for more than a century, an institution, and if for a certain period there aren't any murders that doesn't mean that the mafia doesn't exist anymore, it means that there is a "pax mafiosa" and things are going very well for organized crime.

It can be said that up until now, the Italian legal system deals with the mafia phenomenon inadequately, and lacks a concrete plan to contrast the mafia in all of its complex aspects. An example is the already mentioned article 416 bis that states, if the mafia member is armed, the punishment is greater; but the mafia is always armed and its characteristic is its use of private violence, that is, the non recognition of the State's monopoly on violence.

The measures taken to contrast the mafia are above all exclusively symbolic laws, that is, reactions to the most outstanding crimes. They want to demonstrate the institution's power because they are decreed almost immediately after a crime, without taking into consideration their real value and usefulness. After the 1992 massacres, in which Judges Falcone and Borsellino lost their lives, the army was sent to Sicily. Even this is a symbolic measure to contrast the mafia's territorial control. The mafia's territorial reign of Sicily is based on secular and widespread knowledge of the territory's reality while many of the drafted soldiers sent to Sicily are there for the first time.

1.2. From Palermo's maxi-trial to the arrest of mafia bosses

Even the repression carried out against the mafia phenomenon is based on a reaction to an emergency situation. Trials are conducted and concluded with convictions only after important crimes, while the mafia enjoys an absolute or almost absolute impunity. An example is Luciano Liggio, one of the bloodiest bosses: he received a series of acquittals for insufficiency of evidence and was sentenced to life imprisonment for only one murder (the murder of mafia boss, doctor and "Cavaliere al merito della Repubblica Italiana", Michele Navarra). This conviction came when Liggio's reputation was well known and his previous acquittals had become a national scandal.

Palermo's maxi-trial, the most important mafia trial in the history of Italy, was officiated after an enormous number of murders during the early 1980s and after the assassination of renowned persons like Vice-Questore Boris Giuliano, Magistrates Cesare Terranova and Gaetano Costa, President of the Sicilian Region Piersanti Mattarella, Regional Secretary of the Italian Communist Party Pio La Torre and especially the Prefect Dalla Chiesa (4).

The first round of the maxi-trial ended with many convictions, but the Court of Appeals reduced many sentences and the mafiosos expected further reductions from the Corte di Cassazione (the Supreme Court) (5).

The foundation for the maxi-trial was already laid during the preliminary investigative phase done by Palermo's Antimafia Pool, created by Judge Rocco Chinnici, in which Judges Falcone and Borsellino worked, and was confirmed by the first degree conviction. Accordingly, mafia is identified with the Cosa Nostra organization, defined a unique, pyramidal and apex type organization, provincially directed by a "commissione" or

"cupola" (commission or dome) and regionally by an interprovincial organism, in which the head of the Palermo commission has a hegemonic role. The leaders of Cosa Nostra are "Corleonesi", mafiosos from Corleone (a town in the province of Palermo, traditional stronghold of the mafia but also capital of the peasant's movement until the 1950s), long since working in Palermo.

According to this vision of the mafia, based on statements made by "pentiti", the most famous of which is Buscetta, the gravest crimes were decided by the cupola, the members of which are collectively responsible and therefore, the trials for mafia crimes must be tried as one and dealt with by the Court of Palermo, considered the capital of the mafia.

Other magistrates and the Cassazione, instead sustain, that mafia associations are autonomous groups, not connected amongst themselves, therefore, it is senseless to speak of collective responsibility for the cupola members, and consequentially, mafia trials must deal with the crime singly and they must be held where the crimes were committed. Only in February 1992 did the Cassazione agree with the theory of the Antimafia Pool of Palermo and the members of the cupola were considered responsible for most of the crimes committed in the 1980s in and around the mafia organization. In the meantime, the Antimafia Pool of Palermo was dismantled, Chinnici was murdered in 1983, Falcone and Borsellino in 1992.

Only after Falcone and Borsellino were assassinated were the most renowned mafia bosses, fugitives from justice for years, arrested. The so called boss of the bosses, Totò Riina, was fugitive for 23 years, and was finally arrested in downtown Palermo.

An important contribution to the understanding of the administrative structure of Cosa Nostra, its crimes, and the arrest of its bosses, is due to the "pentiti". The repenting phenomenon isn't completely a new one (significant cases are documented in the XIX century) (6). But only recently has it become so widespread, in fact, there are about 750 pentiti that collaborate with justice today.

The first pentiti, during the 1980s, were mostly drug traffickers working with mafiosos, and it can be explained by the expansion of the mafia's activities and the involvement of criminals foreign to the mafia tradition, that have no regard for omertà. The ensuing pentiti statements, beginning with Buscetta and Contorno, involve the declining mafiosos in a mafia war from 1981-3, and is explained by the internal violence caused by the tentative to take complete

control by the Corleonesi. The boomerang effect involved the Corleonesi and their allies due to their continuous use of violence and even the most recent massacres, that caused a profound effect on public opinion and government reaction. This reaction can be outlined as follows: a very strong reaction after the gravest crimes (which lasted about two years or slightly more) followed by a weakening period, prelude to an actual reverse tendency demonstrated by the dismantling of the Antimafia Pool of Palermo and the isolation of Giovanni Falcone that rendered his work at the Court of Palermo almost impossible. Even now, two years after the 1992 massacres, after the latest "urgent" laws and the arrest of the mafia bosses, the reverse tendency has begun again, with doubts arising as to the legitimacy of using pentiti's testimonies, the attack against some magistrates particularly active by those close to the winners of the last election that brought to government those associated with the "Polo della libertà" (Liberty Pole) (7).

Another important aspect of the battle against organized crime that was dealt with using the logic of an emergency situation: the seizure (a temporary measure) and the confiscation (a final measure) of all the possessions belonging to a person suspected of being a member of organized crime of the mafia type. The main difference, and it is a great difference, between seizing and confiscating is that possessions are often seized in too much of a hurry, always from the point of view of a responsive measure against the gravest mafia crimes and therefore, most of the possessions (real estate, automobiles, etc.) seized are then returned to the owner. From 1992 to 1993, just over 160 billion lire (about 100 million dollars) in possessions were confiscated. This sum is only 12% of the amount seized (1,334 billion lire).

The delays, uncertainties and about faces in the battle against organized crime in Italy have a deep rooted explanation: the mafia, as other Italian forms of organized crime are not only criminal organizations dedicated to various criminal activities, but are intertwined in the social context, especially economy and institutions. Without these intricate relationships, their growth and strength is uncomprehensive.

1.3. The Antimafia Committee's report on mafia and politics

The investigative parliamentary committee on mafia in 1993 tried to deal with this crucial question and reported on the relationship between mafia and politics (8). The report is dedicated to a type of organized crime called Cosa Nostra, that according to the committee, compared to other mafia associations

is prevalently important for its longstanding tradition, its organization both within Italy and abroad, its criminal and financial power. It's certainly an error to underestimate the power of the 'Ndrangheta and Camorra, that have their own specific relationships with politics and institutions. The committee feels that while an eventual defeat of Cosa Nostra could determine the weakening of other types of organized crime, the eventual defeat of the 'Ndrangheta or the Camorra or the Sacra Corona Unita wouldn't have the same effect on Cosa Nostra.

The latter in fact, compared to other forms of organized crime has the function of running a general strategy, imposes its own ways of acting, assumes a major role in important trafficking and constitutes a model of organization.(9)

Cosa Nostra's political strategy is the following:

The occupation and ruling of the territory in competition with legitimate authorities, it possesses immense financial resources, has a well armed secret army, has a program for unlimited expansion, all of these characteristics make it an organization that operates according to the logic of power and convenience, without rules except those that they develop and uphold. Cosa Nostra's political strategy isn't modified by others, it is imposed on others by means of corruption and violence. (10)

According to the report approved by large majority, mafia and politics have a relationship of "cohabitation" that has favored tentatives to infiltrate government organs, magistrate, police and local authorities. Some tentatives have been successful, with disastorous consequences for the legitimacy and credibility of the actions taken by public authorities.

The result of this "cohabitation":

weaken the democratic system... make Italy unique for the number of political assassinations and massacres, in the panorama of western democracies. (11)

This "cohabitation" explains the "fluctuating" repressive measures:

Attack when Cosa Nostra attacks; then return to cohabitation. The error of mistaking pax mafiosa, due to mafia's rigid control of its organization, with the absence of criminal activity. The government didn't attack Cosa Nostra because it's organized crime, but only

when it ordered and committed particularly grave homicides (...). The long lasting relationship between mafia and legitimate authority is almost like that between two distinct sovereigns. (12)

The committee feels that the link between Cosa Nostra and institutions is mostly through the "Massoneria" (freemasonry):

The fundamental terrain on which the link between Cosa Nostra with public officials and private professions was created and reinforced is the Massoneria. The Massoneria bond serves to keep the relationship continuous and organic. The admission of members of Cosa Nostra, even at high levels, in Massoneria is not an occasional or episodic one, but a strategic choice. The oath of allegiance to Cosa Nostra remains the pivot point around which "uomini d'onore" (men of honor) are prominently held. But the Massoneria associations offer the mafia a formidable instrument to extend their own power, to obtain favors and privileges in every field: both for the conclusion of big business and "fixing trials", as many collaborators with justice have revealed. (13)

The report on mafia and politics by the Parliamentary Committee is without a doubt original, of undeniable importance, because for the first time the relationship between mafia and institutions is the center of attention, a matter only mentioned in previous reports (14). This is explained by the fact that the committee worked in a period of transition, that occurred during the passage from the so called first republic to the so called second republic. The fall of "real socialism" in Italy signified the dismantling of the Communist Party, and the creation of the left wing Democratic Party. The same occurred for the Christian Democratic Party (CD), that had unrivaled power from the end of World War II to the beginning of the 1990s because of its rampart against the risk of being conquered by the communists and therefore, was a strong point of Atlantic politics. Nonetheless, the report, in the attempt to gain widespread consent, doesn't go through. For example, it mentions Lima's responsibilities (Lima was a powerful member of the CD assassinated March 12, 1992) but it doesn't analyze the power system of the CD that revolved around Lima and Andreotti, the latter was the most powerful man of the first republic, and doesn't mention the responsibilities of the left wing, compromised with them (15).

1.4. The mafia as a political subject. Double mafia in a double State

It is certainly significant to say that the mafia "cohabitates" with the institutions, especially after decades of denying its existence, but

the reality of the mafia and the relationship between mafia and institutions is much more complex.

The following is a summary of my research (16).

The mafia is a criminal association that runs illegal and legal activities, in order to accumulate capital and pursue power, it has its own cultural code based on the lawfulness of using violence and has noteworthy consent. It acts within a social coalition that includes various classes of the population, with the supremacy of the richest and most influential illegal-legal subjects (borghesia mafiosa: upper middle class mafiosos).

It has the characteristics of a political subject in two senses:

1) being an association, mafia is a political group, having all the individual characteristics of that type of group as defined by classic sociology: a code (a group of rules), territorial extension, physical coercion, an administrative force capable of insuring the observance of the rules and effecting coercive measures (17);

2) it contributes as an association and a social coalition to the production of politics in a comprehensive sense, that is, it determines or contributes in the decisions and choices that regard the manipulation of power and the distribution of resources.

In its relationship with the State and other institutions, mafia is two faced: it is contemporaneously outside and against the State, because it doesn't recognize the State's monopoly on violence and naturally resorts to murder (having the death penalty in its code). It is inside and with the State because a series of activities are connected with the use of public finances (for example, contracts for public works) and imply their active participation in public life (elections, control of the functioning of institutions).

Even the State when dealing with mafia has been characterized by the use of fundamentally double standards. If until 1982 the mafia wasn't considered a criminal organization, the murders and other crimes committed by mafiosos were, but the impunity that they enjoyed signifies the renunciation of the State of its monopoly on violence. The impunity may be considered a form of legitimation, therefore, it may be said that in Italy there has been two ways of dealing with violence. This may be explained by the fact that mafia violence, that has had as victims mainly political and social opponents that symbolize renewal, has been useful for the maintaining of power by the dominant classes every time that the

direct intervention of the State was impossible, due to evident illegality or wouldn't have been as rapid and brutal as mafia violence.

In this way mafia was symbolized as institutionalized criminality (18), while inside the State there was a split between formal constitution and material constitution, that is, between the written principles and the real behavior, and actual criminal institutions were formed. It has been said that since the end of the second world war Italy's democracy has been blocked, formally open but virtually "off-limits" to the opposition. This is the product of the relationship between national and international politics that grew inside of the East-West opposition. The fidelity to atlantic politics in a nation as decisive for mediterranean control as Italy signified the creation of secret anticomunist structures like Gladio (Stay Behind), eventhough, the creation of clandestine associations is constitutionally prohibited. The secret service has had a role in Italian massacres, meant to block social conflicts and the advancing of the left wing (19), contributing to their organization or hindering the inquests and such a behavior is another consequence of atlantic fidelity. The "Loggia massonica P2" (freemasonry) acted against comunism and to establish a presidential republic; its members were politicians, members of the secret service, military, magistrates, and it had a role in the massacres (20).

Therefore, the relationship between mafia and politics can not be seen as a simple collaboration or as a series of episodes that regard a few bosses and some politicians and administrators, but must be seen as a result of the encounter between institutionalized crime and criminal institutions working within the State.

As regards the peripheral institutions the relationship between them and mafia is demonstrated by the dissolving of many city councils in the last few years. In putting into effect Law n° 55 of March 19, 1990, until September 1993, 72 city councils were dissolved: 32 in Campania, 12 in Calabria, 6 in Puglia, 22 in Sicily. The motivations for the dissolvment speak clearly of the presence of mafia members as counsellors, mayors or alderman, or of connections (friendship or even relatives) between mafiosos and administrators in business, causing the disregard of citizen's rights (beginning with liberty and security) and legality. These are situations of formal "criminocrazia" (criminals in power) (21), with the direct acquisition of local power by the mafiosos, or informally through dealings with others that work for the mafia.

2. European Unity: first tentatives at anticrime politics

2.1. A continent of variable legality

The European Economic Community (EEC) has begun to deal with the problem of organized crime in the last few years but is still far from political unity. The 12 member nations have diversified situations, therefore it may be said that it is a "system of variable legality". A few examples: organized crime of the mafia type exists only in the Italian code; penal action is only mandatory in Italy and Germany, optional in all the other nations; only in Germany, Italy and Portugal is community fraud considered a crime; the passing of information to other countries is prohibited in Holland if it causes the limitation of liberty of Dutch citizens and is restricted in Germany (22).

During 1991, the European Parliament constituted an investigative committee on the diffusion of organized crime connected with drug trafficking in the member States of the EEC. The constitution of the committee is explained by the fear derived not only from the devastation of drug use in many sectors of European society, especially among the young living in large urban areas characterized by high unemployment, but also the risks that groups of organized criminals that deal drugs constitute for institutions and government democracies. (23)

Previously, in September 1986, the European Parliament produced a report on "The drug problem in member States of the EEC" and now, with the Committee's report of 1991, an up to date view of the diffusion of organized crime in Europe is available.

The report makes a distinction between "organized crime" and "institutionalized crime". The first is a generic term that may be used for all types of organized criminal activities while the latter is associated with principle criminal organizations. Institutionalized crime can infiltrate into modern industrial societies in a way not even sought after by the first type. (24)

At first organized crime had a regional headquarter, now its influence and activities are extended to the international level:

In the EEC, organized crime has extended its activities and eventhough Italy may be considered the cradle of structured crime (it was a way of life in the southern regions of Italy, Sicily, Calabria and Campania) now similar organizations are arriving from Asia, South America and the United States of America. Groups of

criminals from eastern Europe and the Soviet Union have been identified. (25)

The report gives some information on the main criminal groups working in Europe. Besides Italian groups (Mafia, 'Ndrangheta and Camorra) there are the Japanese Yakusa, the Chinese Triads, the Turkish Clans, and other ethnic clans like the Pakistani Barons, Yugoslavian groups, Polish organizations and motorcycle gangs like Hells Angels.

The legal instruments to fight organized crime in Europe are divided into three categories in the report: the signed international conventions, ratified and in vigor; the community's regulations through the directive, the EEC States are obliged to enforce laws that agree with these; the national regulations.

On the international level, after the signing of the Vienna Convention of December 1988, the United nations in 1990 created the UNDCP (United Nations Drug Control Program) that takes the place of UNFDAC (United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control) and unified all the initiatives of the international community as regards the fight against drug trafficking and development programs for countries that cultivate drugs.

On the European level the new Treaty of the Union that contains dispositions regarding the fight against drugs in the public health sector (Title II, art. 129), regarding penal justice and internal affairs (Title VI) and foreign politics and security (Title V).

The member States of the EEC present a great variety in their penal codes, but agree on the fundamental points, like the respect for the international conventions on drugs.

A big problem is the variety of organs preposed for the repression. In the 12 member States there are 28 organs between police and customs. There isn't only the problem of cooperation between the organs of different States but also the problem of cooperation within the single States. The justice and judicial systems are different as are their penal investigative proceedings.

Undoubtably, the evolution towards a common justice and judicial system will necessarily be slow, the problem is how to deal with the obstacles that the disparity between the different States' systems that fight organized crime and drug trafficking on the European level create.

The first step in any program to fight organized crime is the acquisition and utilization of information. The Committee stresses the need for such an organization on the European level.

A European initiative for the fight against drug trafficking and money laundering must be developed.

2.2. The drug plan in the European Union

The first organism that dealt with the drug problem on the European level was the Pompidou Group. Founded in 1971 through the initiative of the French President, since 1980 it has collaborated with the European Council, sponsoring research on the use and trafficking of drugs and coordinating European politics on drugs.

In 1985, the TREVI group (Terrorism, Radicalism, Extremism and International Violence), made up of the ministers of the member States of the EEC, decided to deal with the drug problem.

In 1986, the European Parliament discussed a report on drug trafficking written by Stewart Clark. In 1989 the French presidency proposed a seven point plan, among which, common antidrug politics and against money laundering. In December of the same year CELAD (European Committee on the Fight Against Drug Abuse) was created, that proposed a European plan for the fight against drug abuse, approved by the European Council of Rome in December 1990 and reviewed and updated by the European Council of Edinburgh in 1992.

In June 1994, the EEC Commission presented a proposal for a plan of action, at the European Council and Parliament, for the fight against drugs. The Plan has three main points: the reduction of the demand, the fight against illegal trafficking and international measures.

The Plan foresees a reduction in the demand through prevention (information, health care education, professional formation) and means destined to favor social and professional reintegration.

The measures to restrain illegal trafficking regard the application of legislative instruments already existent and cooperation with non member nations.

The international program regards the participation in the United Nations Program, bilateral cooperation with bordering nations,

adding clauses for the fight against drugs in the agreements made with non member nations.

As regards structures that should give a new impulse to the fight against drugs, the use of plans relative to Europol and the European Observatory on drugs and addiction are foreseen.

Europol is located in Aja and has few employees and few means. Since 1994, the European antidrug unit (Ude) was constituted and has only fifteen employees. The Observatory on drugs will have its headquarters in Lisbon but has not yet begun its activities. In the meantime, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have created a committee to coordinate the various associations that operate in drug law enforcement, international cooperation and aid the Observatory (ENCOD: European NGO Committee on Drugs and Development).

2.3. Measures against money laundering

In June 1991, the EEC Council approved a directive on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the laundering of profits obtained from illegal activities.

This initiative is among those begun in the last few years to contrast money laundering on the international level. The main initiatives are the following:

The Basilea declaration signed in December 1988 by the G7 countries, Belgium, Luxemburg, Holland and Switzerland. The document assigns central banks the task of identifying clients and the origin of their funds, to refuse suspect transactions and collaborate with police.

The constitution of the FATF (Financial Action Task Force) in July 1989 after the Paris G7 meeting. Besides G7 countries, other member countries are the EEC, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, and Australia. Its tasks are: analysis of the laundering phenomenon, verification of the national and international means, elaboration of proposals and recommendations.

The European Council directive considers as crime of money laundering the conversion or the transfer of capital knowing that they were obtained from "grave crimes", with the goal of hiding or concealing their illicit origin. "Grave crimes" are considered those indicated by article n° 3 of the Vienna Convention (production and

commerce of narcotics and psychoactive substances) and also other crimes, beginning with those done by members of organized crime.

The field of action of the directive of the European Council comprehends the entire financial system, therefore, not only the banks but all the credit and financial institutions, including insurance companies, and may be extended to professional activities or companies that use liquid funds and may be a means of laundering money.

The member States must guarantee that money laundering constitutes a crime in their country and that credit and financial institutions are certain of their client's identity when they begin a business or bank transaction and examine with particular attention the unusual transactions that seemingly have no apparent economic aim. These institutions must fully collaborate with judicial authorities or those that apply the penal code, must provide adequate internal control to prevent, discover and inhibit their involvement in money laundering.

The European Council's convention on laundering and seizure and confiscation of profits from crime, signed by about twenty States, was ratified by only five States: three member States (Italy, Holland, United Kingdom) and two other countries (Bulgaria and Switzerland), and is in vigor since September 1, 1993.

The actual European scheme, as regards measures against laundering, is quite confused. Regarding the extension of laundering to all grave crimes, such a disposition has not been accepted by the member States: all excluded fiscal evasion, while Luxemburgh has connected laundering only to capital obtained from narcotics trafficking. Also, in some countries this legislation isn't applied to certain areas that work as tax havens or fiscal paradises, for example, the Islands of Jersey and Guernsey are not under English laws against laundering.

As regards the notification of suspected transactions there are many different systems in use. Italy, Germany and Holland adopted the American system of "currency transaction report", that is, the automatic notification of all the transactions that are above a certain amount. In Germany transactions of more than 15,000 marks must be notified, about 70 million transactions annually. Other nations only notify suspicious transactions, with very different results. In 1992 only 600 transactions were notified in France and almost 12,000 in Great Britain.

As is evident, Europe is only at the beginning in this decisive field in the battle against organized crime, in great delay and with many uncertainties. The worry about the utilization of the financial system for laundering money has grown since the BCCI scandal (Bank of Credit and Commerce International) of 1991 (26). One of the expedients used by the BCCI was to take advantage of the difficulties encountered in the collaboration between different countries, therefore, they set up headquarters in London and the social seat in Luxembourg, where controls are less restrictive, with bank subsidiaries all over the world. The EEC has the problem of how to unify the surveillance regulations, especially those that regulate financial institutions that have subsidiaries in different member States. In July 1993, the EEC Commission, that is, the executive organ, formulated a directive proposal that foresees, among other things, the obligation of a credit institution having its legal headquarters in the same member State in which it has its administrative headquarters.

These measures try to limit the dangers of the liberalization of the circulation of capital with the official opening of the European market in 1993. It has yet to be proven how effective these measures will be, in light of the fact that there is a trend in transnational markets towards the abolition or reduction in controls which may render easier the encounter between illegal and legal capital. This matter will be dealt with later.

2.4. EEC fraud and organized crime

Organized crime has placed a great deal of interest on EEC fraud. This term includes all the infractions of a juridical nature, committed by a person or private organizations that have financial consequences on the EEC's budget.

Frauds may regard both funds taken from the EEC's budget, in particular those donated to States as part of the EEC's political policy, and funds due to the EEC that for various reasons are not collected.

According to official estimates, less than 0.2% of the subsidies are unduly distributed. Other sources report that the EEC is defrauded of as much as 8-10% of its budget. In 1990, 525 cases of fraud were notified to the European Agricultural Orientation and Guarantee Fund (FEAOG) while in 1992, 1030 cases were notified. Italy leads the group with 366 cases. Italy also is at the top of the list as regards the amount defrauded, 79.49 million ECUs, and Germany is

way behind in second place with 7.95 million ECUs (1 ECU = about 1,900 Italian lire). This is only part of the EEC frauds.

Since January 1, 1990, the member States must notify the number of irregularities and frauds each six months. In two years, from 1990-1992, Italy notified 69 cases, Germany 306, Great Britain 285, France 242, Belgium 96 and Denmark 93.

The greatest number of EEC frauds were committed in Southern Italy (Sicily, Calabria, Puglia) areas in which organized crime is predominant. 19% of those accused between 1990-1992 have precedents for organized crime, narcotics trafficking, extortion and other crimes typical of organized crime. Various cases regard famous members of organized crime (27).

With the common market and removal of the borders, these crimes are increasing significantly, and especially the smuggling of cigarettes (28).

3. The contradictions of today's society: basic trends and compensative measures

The diffusion of illegal activities, beginning with international drug trafficking and the proliferation of criminal mafia type groups (that unite legal and illegal activities, have a social and economic role, interact with institutions) can be explained by some fundamental contradictions in today's society. The most relevant are the following (29):

Contradiction between legality and reality. The prohibition of drugs was confirmed at the United Nations Convention of December 1988, but regardless of the tentatives to reduce the demand and stop drug trafficking, its use has increased and drug traffickers have accumulated and continue to accumulate huge amounts of capital. The abolition of prohibition won't abolish the mafia, that has other activities, and would dedicate more time to them or find new ones, but would certainly hinder their capability to accumulate capital and would emancipate drug addicts from the slavery of drug dealers without scruples. The actual debate on prohibition and legislation places its attention mostly on concrete themes, like the cost-benefit ratio of repressive measures, overcrowded prisons, paralysis of the judicial system, the diffusion of AIDS among drug addicts. The administrators of a few large European cities famous for drug use and trafficking have taken an interesting standpoint. In 1990, they met at Frankfurt and approved a resolution that affirms the failure of the actual antidrug policies and emphasizes the need for the

counselling of drug addicts and prevention, based on the policy of "harm reduction".

Contradictions between the opacity of the financial system and the fight against laundering. The international financial system is notoriously opaque, due to banking secrecy, tax havens, financial innovations (that is, new forms of collecting capital and new financial subjects and circuits, created to escape controls) and that favors the symbiosis between illegal and legal capital. The liberalization of the circulation of capital and the creation of large transnational markets (European, North American NAFTA, APEC in the Pacific areas, the Chinese economic area) demolish borders and abolish controls and therefore favor the circulation of all types of capital, including illegal. Antilaunching measures as a consequence risk being too small and insignificant or fragile when compared to the huge number of transactions. About 3,000 billion dollars are transacted each day on the world market and a large part of that sum is "hot capital" looking for more favorable outlets. Amongst this huge flow of capital, illegal capital may be easily hidden and laundered (30).

Contradiction between capitalist restructuring and developmental politics. With the fall of "real socialism" we entered the "global capitalism phase". The capitalistic ways of production have extended to the entire world and the world economic scene is dominated by international figures though they maintain a national base, in the United States, Japan, and Europe. The World Bank's report on the world's economic situation and on developing countries, published in 1993, utilizing four levels of pro capita income distinguishes four economies: low income economies (635 dollars or less), lower middle income (635-2,555 dollars), upper middle income (\$2,556-7,910), high income (more than 7,911) (31). In the last few years the gap between underdeveloped nations and developed nations has grown. During the 1980s with the foreign debt crisis, in about 40 underdeveloped nations there was a reduction in the pro capita income, while during the 1970s this reduction only involved 20 nations and during the 1960s only about 10 nations. The amount of official aid for development has remained stable while the number of nations that should obtain aid has increased.

At present there is a restructuring process of the productive apparatus that causes conflicts between the United States, Japan and Europe and increases the gap between central and peripheral economies. Today, 23% of the world's population consumes 80% of the resources. In vast areas like Africa and Asia the number of poor

people is growing. That is, the number of people that live with an income lower than that necessary to survive with is increasing. In rich areas, the social gap is also growing with the great increase in unemployment (36,000,000 in the OCSE nations, 20,000,000 in Europe). In this scheme of territorial unbalance and growing social gaps, the legal economies of the border areas are dismantled and illegal accumulation becomes the only chance possible. This is valid for all the drug producing countries, from Latin America to Asia, from Africa to the Middle East. If in the peripheral areas organized crime represents an answer to the crisis, in the central areas it takes advantage of uncontrolled accumulation (first of all the availability of low cost capital) and the convenience offered by the system (prohibition, opacity of the financial system, etc.)

The situation is particularly critical in the ex-socialist countries. Eastern Europe may be or already is a new frontier for organized crime. Immediately after the fall of the Berlin Wall official and newspaper sources reported that mafia and the camorra had invested about 72 billion marks in the ex Democratic Republic of Germany, one third of the investments made in that period. The foreign criminal groups are not the only ones present in these countries. Today, many speak of the Russian mafia that traffics (drugs, nuclear arms, traditional weapons, petroleum, metals, and food) in collaboration with members of the secret service and ex-government agencies over-run by the collapse of the regime (32).

If the explanation for the growth of the illegal economy and the diffusion of criminal groups of the mafia type is to be searched for among the characteristics of contemporary society before mentioned, effective anticrime politics is to be connected with the profound mutations and radical choices that have an effect on cultural goals and social relationships. To make a few examples: the abolition of drug prohibition, the elimination of every form of opacity of the financial system, a fight against the various forms of "criminocrazia" and exchanges between criminal groups and institutions. All of this must be a part of a more general fight for democracy, a policy of cohabitation and development that insure the satisfaction of basic needs instead of ceaseless competition between large financial-industrial powers and the search for maximum profit. These are the battlegrounds that will decide the future of humanity and not only the result of the fight against organized crime.

The Author

Umberto Santino, founder and director of the Sicilian center of documentation "Giuseppe Impastato", the first study-center on mafia and organized crime in Italy, has written various essays, among which: The financial mafia, La violenza programmata (Programmed violence) (with G. Chinnici), Mafia e Maxiprocesso (Mafia and the Maxi-trial), L'impresa mafiosa (The mafia enterprise) and Dietro la droga (Behind drugs) (with G. La Fiura), La borghesia mafiosa (Middle class mafia). He also wrote the novel Libro di Giona (Book of Giona). He is the Italian correspondent for OGD (Observatoire géopolitique des drogues) and is a member of ENCOD (European NGO Committee on Drugs and Development). He coordinated the "Progetto Droga" realized by the Centro Impastato and CISS (Cooperazione Internazionale Sud-Sud) with the support of the EEC, that has produced a multimedial unit for secondary and university students, teachers and development workers. The book that this unit is based on is Dietro la Droga, written in four languages.

Endnotes

1 Ermanno Sangiorgi, Questore (chief of police) of Palermo from 1898-1900 wrote a series of reports on Palermo's and the province's organized crime formed by various groups, coordinated by a "conference among bosses" and headed by a "supreme boss". See S. Lupo, Storia della mafia dalle origini ai nostri giorni, Donzelli, Roma, 1993. Information about the existence of something similar to organized crime can also be derived from reports by officers of the Bourbon period. See G. Fiume, Le bande armate in Sicilia (1819-1849), Annali della Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia dell'Università di Palermo, Palermo, 1984.

2 For more information about mafia enterprises see U. Santino and G. La Fiura, L'impresa mafiosa. Dall'Italia agli Stati Uniti, F. Angeli, Milano, 1990.

3 See U. Santino, The financial mafia: The illegal accumulation of wealth and the financial industrial complex, in "Contemporary Crises", Vol. 12, n. 3, September 1988, pp. 203-243.

4 On Homicides in Palermo see G. Chinnici and U. Santino, La violenza programmata. Omicidi e guerre di mafia a Palermo dagli anni '60 ad oggi. F. Angeli, Milano, 1989.

5 For more information about the Maxi-trial see G. Chinnici, U. Santino, G. La Fiura, U. Adragna, Gabbie vuote. Processi per

omicidio a Palermo dal 1983 al Maxiprocesso. F. Angeli, Milano, 1992.

6 The trial against Mafiosos of Monreale belonging to the group called "Stoppagghieri", held in Palermo in May 1878, was based on information obtained from the "pentito" Salvatore D'Amico, murdered a month before the trial date. Also in 1878, Rosario La Mantia, a mafioso collaborated with justice providing information on Palermo's mafia of Piazza Montalto. The trial ended with 12 death sentences.

7 The neofascist organ "L'Italia settimanale" ("Italian weekly") immediately after the elections held in March 1994 published a list of the "heads to cut off", among which the present Chief Prosecutor of Palermo Giancarlo Caselli.

8 Commissione Parlamentare d'inchiesta sul fenomeno della mafia e sulle altre associazioni criminali similari (from now on called CPA: Commissione Parlamentare Antimafia), Relazione sui rapporti tra mafia e politica, Roma, 1993.

9 Ibidem, p. 24.

10 Ib., p. 40.

11 Ib., p. 50.

12 Ib., p. 54.

13 Ib., p. 59 s.

14 Since the establishing of the Republic there have been 4 Parliamentary Antimafia Committees. The first in 1962 and ended its work in 1976, gathering a great deal of material on mafia's activities and stressing the necessity to use new measures against them, but the antimafia law only came in 1982. The second committee was constituted in September 1982 to verify the fulfilling of the antimafia law, and ended its work in 1987. The third committee, constituted in March 1988 with investigative powers, ended in 1992. The fourth committee, constituted in 1992 with investigative powers, ended in 1994, with the end of the XI legislature.

15 In December 1984 I presented at the European Parliament the dossier Un amico a Strasburgo. Documenti della Commissione Antimafia su Salvo Lima, with which I documented the relationship

between Lima and the mafia. The dossier is reproduced in the minority report of the Antimafia Parliamentary Committee published in 1985. Only a few European Parliamentary Deputies voted in favor requesting a discussion on Salvo Lima, the deputies of the Italian Communist Party (ICP) voted against the motion, advancing formal motivations. A month before, at the Italian Parliament, the ICP abstained from voting on the relationship between Andreotti and the Banker Michele Sindona. ICP's attitude may be explained by the fact that Lima and Andreotti were in favor of the ICP joining the majority in government rule, during the so called period of "historical compromise", that theorized the necessity for a relationship between the ICP and the CD to avoid what happened in Chile and the dramatic conclusion of the Allende experience. On Michele Sindona see L. DiFonzo, *St. Peter's Banker: Michele Sindona*, Franklin Watts, New York, 1983; N. Tosches, *Power on Earth*, Arbor House, New York, 1986.

16 U. Santino, *La mafia come soggetto politico*, in "Una città per l'uomo" nn. 1, 2, 3-4, February - August 1993 and essays gathered in *La borghesia mafiosa*, Centro siciliano di documentazione G. Impastato, Palermo, 1994.

17 On political groups see Max Weber, *Economia e società*, vol. I, Edizioni di Comunità, Milano, 1981.

18 This expression was quoted from the Report of the investigative committee of the European Parliament on the spreading of organized crime, November, 1991.

19 In Italy from 1969 to 1984, the years of student and worker struggles and success for the Communist Party, there were eight massacres with 149 dead and 688 injured. The only one in which convictions were made was the Christmas 1994 massacre (rapid train 904) in which mafiosos and neofascists were convicted. In the ordinance of deferment to justice for the Peteano massacre (May 1972): "The massacres (...) are intended to spread panic and collective insecurity with the intent to produce the need and demand for 'order', to justify the government's pacifying intervention as a 'strong' State (...) This scheme was thought of and managed by centers of power in the heart of government, which on one hand used mediators to handle the operations and on the other hand hindered the judicial investigations." In C. Schaerf et al. (editors), *Venti anni di violenza politica in Italia*, Isodarco, Roma, 1992, p. 16.

20 Commissione Parlamentare d'inchiesta sulla Loggia massonica P2, Relazioni di maggioranza e di minoranza, Roma, 1984.

21 The British Anthropologist Anthony Henman uses the term "narcocracy" for the situations in which drug traffickers directly or indirectly occupy positions of power. See A. Henman, R. Lewis, T. Malyon, Big Deal. The politics of the illicit drug business, Pluto Press, London and Sydney, 1985.

22 See CPA, Prima relazione annuale, Roma, 1993, p. 52.

23 Parlamento Europeo, Commissione d'inchiesta sulla diffusione del crimine organizzato collegato al traffico di sostanze stupefacenti negli Stati membri della Comunità Europea, Progetto di relazione, November 1991.

24 Ibidem, p. 5.

25 Ib., p. 22.

26 See U. Santino and G. La Fiura, Dietro la droga, Edizioni Gruppo Abele, Torino, 1993. Translation in French: Derrière la drogue, Gruppo Abele 1993; in Spanish: Detrás de la droga, Homo Sapiens Ediciones, Rosario, 1993. The translation in English is forthcoming.

27 See CPA, Relazione conclusiva, Rome, 1994, pp. 330 ss.

28 Ibidem, p. 310.

29 I summarize the considerations of my essay, La mafia sicilienne et le nouveau marchés des drogues en Europe, in A. Labrousse et A. Wallon (editors), La planète des drogues, Éditions du Seul, Paris, 1993, pp. 123-143.

30 See: J. F. Couvrat and N. Pless, La face cachée de l'économie mondiale, Hatier, Paris, 1988; R.T. Naylor, Hot Money, Simon and Schuster, New York, 1989.

31 I have used the Italian translation of the report. See: Banca Mondiale, Le prospettive dell'economia mondiale e i paesi in via di sviluppo/ 1993, in "Politica Internazionale", n. 3, July - September 1993.

32 See D. De Kochko and A. Datskevitch, L'empire de la drogue. La Russie et ses marches, Hachette, Paris, 1994, for more on the

development of drug trafficking and on mafia groups in Russia after the fall of the socialist regime.

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Further Reading:

Las Vegas, Mob, Tropicana, Freemason Signs, Freemasons, Freemasonry

Driving the Las Vegas Strip, Early AM - VIDEO

Conspiracy Archive: Operation Hiram - Italian Freemasonry and the Mafia

St. Peter's Squared

Roberto Calvi and the P2 Masonic Lodge Conspiracy

Rotating Compass & Square

Roberto Calvi

"God's Banker" Freemason Roberto Calvi, member elite Grand Orient of Italy Lodge 'P2'. After fleeing Italy in 1982 Brother Calvi is found hanging under London's Blackfriars Bridge (one of the symbols used by Italian Freemasonry being a Black Friar) , his pockets stuffed with five kilos of bricks and rocks (i.e. masonry), his feet dangling in the ebb and flow of the tide (another Masonic inference from their infamous Secrecy Penalty Blood Oaths). British Police rule the death a suicide.

Enter the rabbit hole.

CIA Logo UGLE Logo MI5 Logo

Four programmes on state television (RAI) allege that the CIA paid Lucio Gelli to "foment terrorist activities. "In the first programme someone described simply as "Agent Zero" described how Palme (Prime Minister of Sweden Olaf Palme) had been caught in a deal between the CIA and Iran to release American hostages in Tehran. "Palme was a fly in the ointment so we got P2 to rub him out," the agent said. The second programme, which showed the gaunt silhouette of "Agent Zero One", alleged that P2 was not wound up in the mid-1980s, after the arrest of its leader Licio Gelli. "It still exists. It calls itself P7," he said. According to the agent, the lodge is still functioning with branches in Austria, Switzerland and East Germany. "Zero One" has now been revealed by the Italian press to be Dick Brenneke, allegedly a career CIA officer"

Richard Bassett

**Times
September 24, 1990**

Gelli, Calvi, Sindona, Marcinkus

John Paul I

Pope Shot

Rutger Hauer Film

Grand Orient of Italy Masonic Lodge Propaganda Due (P2).

Formed in the 19th century by the Grande Orient of Italy for the elites, the organization evolved out of the violent organization known as the Carbonari. Pagan elements suffused the rituals of the organization to which all Grand Masters of regular Italian Freemasonry of course belonged. The head was known as Naj Hannah (King Cobra).

In interviews two former members have described the oaths they took. They were taken to a compound, a Villa hidden in the Apennines in the region of Tuscany. A 12-foot wall seals the neatly manicured grounds from view. In the centre of the main courtyard stands a fountain shaped like a tree trunk. The cobralike sculpture, with its inflated hood, watches over the compound in a protective posture, as if ready to strike. The cobra's head is twice the size of a human skull. It has a single eye, which is blue during daylight and red after nightfall, for inside the cobra's hood and behind its eye there is a closed-circuit camera that follows a visitor, invited or unwelcome, as the fountain rotates in the direction the intruder moves. The fountain- camera is controlled from a room within the villa where eight monitors, each with five stations, cover eight

guest rooms, patio, pool, dining room, sitting room, and party room. Approximately ten cameras, including the one inside the cobra, have infrared lenses. All of the exterior cameras are camouflaged by the landscaping. The Villa's interior is magnificent. Every room has marble floors and is furnished with antiques. Observing the high ceilings, the finely crafted gold-leaf moldings, the portraits of Mussolini, Hitler, and Peron, the visitor experiences a feeling, a sort of living, breathing odor of danger and power that penetrates the soul and cell by cell contaminates the mind with fear. The year is 1964.

In the meeting room, twelve members of P-2, dressed in satin ceremonial robes and wearing black hoods reminiscent of those worn by members of the Ku Klux Klan, sit in leather chairs at a red marble conference table. They are the elite members of the Wolf Pack, Gelli's disciples - some say his execution squad. None of the black-clad disciples knows the identity of any of his eleven brothers. Grand Master Licio Gelli is the only one who bares his face. Two Masons stand post at the entrance to the meeting room. Their faces are also covered. They are Naja Hannah's personal bodyguards some say his death squad-former Mussolini Facists whose job is to protect the Grand Master and kill any of the twelve disciples who betray the cause "Il Momento di Passare all"(The Time for Real Action). Like Naja Hannah and his disciples, each bodyguard carries an axe; they also bear automatic weapons.

The ceremony begins. There is an uneven series of knocks at the door. "Your Worshipful," a disciple announces, "a pagan wishes to enter". The Grand Master strikes the table with one blow with his axe. Immediately the oversized door swings open and slams against the inner wall. Two guards escort the initiate to the center of the room where he faces the twelve Masons with his back to the grand masters throne. The Pagan, as he is called, is wearing a plain black hood and a blindfold. His identity is known to Grand Master Licio Gelli but to no one else. He is asked one question by each of the disciples, but the Pagan does not answer, instead, one of the guards speaks for him. Once all the ritual questions about purpose and belief and reason for wanting to become a member of Propaganda Due are answered, the Pagan is turned to face the Grand Master, who asks, "Pagan, are you prepared to die in order to preserve the secrets of Propaganda Due?" The initiate now answers for himself: "I am." "Do you have the necessary quality of contempt for danger?" "I do." "Do you have the necessary quality of courage?" "I am courageous." "Do you proclaim yourself an Anti-Communist?" "I do". "And Pagan, are you prepared to fight and perhaps face shame, even death, so that we who may become your Brothers may destroy

this Government and form a Presidency?" "I am". Then the blindfold is removed. It takes a moment for the initiate's vision to clear, because this is the first time since entering the compound that he has been allowed to see light. The blindfold serves a purpose other than security. It also represents the power of P-2: "Without membership one is blind; with the help of the order, however, the way is clear."

**St. Peter's Banker
Luigi DiFonzo
Franklin Watts Ltd.
1983**

gelli Licio Gelli, Grand Master P2.

Called Naja Hannah (King Cobra) by P2 members. Born 1919 in Pistoia, a provincial capital of Tuscany. At Seventeen he left high school to fight with the Fascist Italian Blackshirt division in Spain, and during World War II Gelli zealously supported the Italian dictator, Benito Mussolini. Gelli served as an Officer in the notorious German SS Herman Goering Division which saw extensive duty in the battles of Sicily and Mainland Italy. When the dictator fell, Gelli fled to Argentina, where he allied himself with Juan Peron, became Peron's economic advisor to Italy, and was granted dual citizenship.

Operated in the "Rat Line" which orchestrated the escape of hundreds of indicted or suspected Nazi War Criminals, "Scientists", and Nazi Intelligence Officers including likely Klaus Barbie the Butcher of Lyon, Via Switzerland to South America under the direction of O.S.S./C.I.A., and M.I.5 using the code name "Operation Paperclip".

With the help of the Grande Oriente of Italy the Anti-Fascist Commission cleared Gelli of War Crime charges related to his involvement with the executions of Partisans by the SS, contradicting claims by Masons of Anti-Masonry by Italian Fascists, and Anti-Fascism by Italian Masons. When Juan Peron died, Eva Peron called him back to organize the transition.

In early 1960's he joined the Masonic Order of Freemasonry known in Italy as the Grande Oriente (recognized by mainstream Freemasonry UGLE & U.S. Grand Lodges). As Grand Master of P2 Gelli declared himself "a lifelong anti-communist".

Member of C.I.A. and M.I.5 "Stay Behind" Underground Resistance Force Plan with the codename Operation "Gladio", who worked

under the direct supervision of Freemason Dulles, who later became the C.I.A. director fired by JFK. In the event of a takeover by Communists or anyone else the C.I.A., M.I.5 or Pentagon didn't like in Europe or Latin America, "Gladio" would wage a clandestine war of subversion and terrorism against the offending Government/Movement/People. This is likely what happened to Salvadore Allende of Chile and the Socialist Government of Greece in the "Colonels Coupe".

Under Gelli P2 Masonic Lodge was the most powerful, political, and violent secret organization in Italy. Important Italian Generals, magistrates, and businessmen became members of P2 Masonic Lodge which Gelli served from the hierarchy of Freemasonry. Determined to destroy Italy's parliamentary system of government in order to form a Presidential Dictatorship, Gelli recruited members who swore allegiance to him rather than to the nation of Italy.

Gelli was not brilliant so much as shrewd and devious. He had money and power, but he realized that wealth and position meant little without the weapon of fear. Gelli believed that fear was the instrument by which real power could be masterfully employed, and he believed fear was most useful when cloaked in silence. So Grand Master Gelli divided members of P2 Masonic Lodge into divisions and forbade them to disclose their membership.

In 1980 Gelli was the Guest of Honour at one of Ronald Reagans Presidential Inauguration Balls. It has been suggested that Gelli worked closely with Reagan C.I.A. Director Appointee William Casey in the "October Surprise" involving the delayed release of U.S. hostages held by the Ayhatola Khomeini until after the elections, which contributed greatly to Jimmy Carters defeat.

Ronald Reagan received an "honorary" 33rd Scottish Rite Freemason Degree after he was elected President.

**St. Peter's Banker
Luigi DiFonzo
Franklin Watts Ltd.
1983**

Now the Vatican suddenly realized Fremasonry was still a perfect vehicle for conspiracies against Church and State. 'Times change,'

the English bishops had said in 1974. They failed to say that Freemasonry remains the same. The P2 scandal was 1738 and 1848 all over again. 'Men of goodwill' in Britain, France and Italy would bluster that P2 had nothing to do with 'regular' Freemasonry, but this was a lie and those who uttered it were either fools or knaves. P2 was a recognized part of the 'regular' Grand Orient of Italy - itself recognized by the Grand Lodge of England in 1972 - and three successive Italian Grand Masters were up to their necks in the conspiracy.

**Chapter 33 - 'Spooks in Aprons'
Inside the Brotherhood, by Martin Short
Harper Collins, 1990, 1993, 1997**

**Curious Omissions
'St. Peter's Squared', Chapter 8 Excerpts
Inside the Brotherhood, Martin Short
Harper Collins, 1989**

If they were not doing evil they would not have so great a hatred of the light.

Ever since 1738 when Clement XII issued his bull In Eminenti against the 'depraved and perverted' societies of Freemasons, the Roman Catholic Church has been condemning Freemasonry as if it were the child of the devil. Ironically, it was only in recent years, as Protestant churches were at last plucking up courage to round on the brotherhood, that the Vatican softened its opposition and seemed almost to welcome its centuries-old enemy beneath the canopy of St Peter's itself.

In eminenti - the first of more than twenty bulls against Freemasonry - was issued partly on doctrinal grounds but also because, in the 1730's, the Papacy felt its temporal power was being subverted by a lodge in Florence. The lodge, set up by Englishmen, was being used by English agents as a cell for intrigue and espionage. As I explain in Chapter 33, the agents target was the Stuart Pretender, James, who was holding court in the Holy City, but the lodge also contained Italian freethinkers who mocked the Papacy. On both these grounds Clement railed against societies called 'Liberi Muratori' or 'Freemasons' for the 'great mischiefs' they did to the 'temporal tranquillity of the state:

Since we are taught by the divine word to watch, like a faithful servant, night and day, lest this sort of men break as thieves into the house, and like foxes endeavour to root up the vineyard... we do condemn and prohibit the same societies...

The Pope commended that no members of 'the faithful in Christ', whatever their status, laymen or clergy, should join Masonic societies, or give Masons shelter, help them meet, 'afford them counsel, help or favour', assist them to recruit, or 'in any manner aid and promote them'. those who did would suffer the penalty of excommunication 'without any other declaration; from which no one can obtain the benefit of absolution from any other but us... except at the point of death'.

Enforcing the new law fell to the Holy Inquisition which promptly jailed an Italian member of the Florence lodge. The lodge closed but some of its members still conspired against Rome. For the next 100 years Freemasonry grew throughout Italy as a cover for nationalist revolutionary activity. According to one Masonic writer, from the middle of the nineteenth century 'the salient point of Italian politics was war against Catholicism directly led by the lodges'. By 1848 Pius IX and the Papal States were overwhelmed by the movement for Italian unification. The papal prime minister was assassinated, an act which the revolution's leader, [and Mafia founder - FW] the Freemason Giuseppe Mazzini, deemed 'necessary and just'. Rome rebelled, Pius fled, and Mazzini set up a Roman Republic. It did not last. In 1850 the French put Pius back on the Roman throne, but the secret societies had signalled the end of his territorial power. Twenty years later Italian unity was achieved, largely through the efforts of three Masons; the revolutionary Mazzini, the soldier Garibaldi and the statesman Cavour. By 1870 these men had destroyed the Pope's earthly dominion. Rome was made the capital of an independent secular nation state and the Papacy was reduced to 109 acres around St. Peter's. In his tortured thirty-two year reign Pius IX issued six bulls attacking Masonry but the definitive condemnation came in 1884 with *Humanum Genus*, in which Leo XIII lamented that the pontiff was falsely

deprived of temporal power, the stronghold of his rights and of his freedom; he was next reduced to an iniquitous condition, unbearable for its numberless burdens until it has come to this, that the sectarians may openly say what they had already in secret devised for a long time, namely, that the very spiritual power of the Pope ought to be taken away and the divine institution of the Roman Pontificate ought to disappear from the world.

Leo endorsed the view that the Freemasons' 'real supreme aim' is 'to persecute Christianity with untamed hatred, and they will never rest until they see cast to the ground all religious institutions established by the Pope'. Masons insinuate themselves 'into the hearts of Princes' in order to exploit them as 'accomplices to overcome Christianity'. Then they resolve to 'shake the foundations of the thrones, and persecute, calumniate or banish those sovereigns who refuse to rule as they desire'. The Masons deceived the people too into believing that 'the Church is the cause of the iniquitous servitude and misery in which they are suffering' but, 'It would be more according to civil wisdom and more necessary to universal welfare that Princes and Peoples, instead of joining the Freemasons against the Church, should unite with the Church to resist the Freemasons' attacks'.

The turning point was the Papacy of John XXIII. In 1962 his second Vatican Council promoted a new climate of religious tolerance and raised hopes of a coming together of all churches and faiths. It called for a dialogue with all 'men of goodwill' who showed a readiness to talk with the Church. Leading Masons felt this must include them because their order was built on a similar concept of 'gather together, beyond the limits of the various religions and world views, men of goodwill on the basis of humanistic values comprehensible and acceptable to everyone. It was also told that Masonry's moral values encourage men to embrace their own religions even more strongly, so that Catholics who are Masons become even better Catholics.

In the decade after Vatican II, Catholic leaders in several countries were solicited by Freemasons. In 1968 a prominent English Mason named Harry Carr persuaded the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster to propose a softer line on Freemasonry to the Vatican. Cardinal Heenan was sympathetic because of the sad tale of one of his parishioners. In his autobiography he told of his visits to a Yeoman of the Guard (a Beefeater at the Tower of London) who was 'over seventy with a well-trimmed white beard'. The man always attended Sunday Mass and 'prayed with great recollection', but never took Communion. 'There was only one black mark in the Yeoman's record. He had not received the sacraments within living memory. His children knew the reason. In the army he had become a Freemason in the belief that this would further his career.'

Heenan felt it was 'probably only a matter of time' before the general ban on Masonry would be lifted, but not even he dared ask the Vatican to allow the Yeoman to take Communion while he was

still a Mason. Instead the Cardinal urged the Beefeater to quit the Craft, but he never did because he 'was under the almost certainly false impression that he would have to cease to be a Yeoman if he resigned from his masonic lodge'.

As it happens, the Yeoman's 'impression' was almost certainly correct for the Craft is strong in the army, the Territorials and in many quasi-military organizations. At that time it may have held sway among Beefeaters. Ignoring such worldly obstacles, Heenan embraced Carr's view that 'regular' Masons had never plotted against the Church and accepted the need to draw a 'sharp line' between English-style Freemasonry and the 'athiestic or anti-Christian Grand Orient type'. In his own book Carr says he urged Heenan to urge Rome that it could use the English model to distinguish between good and bad Freemasonry. He added: 'What we really need is an intermediary, to convince your authorities.' Heenan replied: 'I am your intermediary.'

The Cardinal then took up the cause of 'regular' Freemasonry with Pope Paul VI. By 1971 he was able to report some progress...

Similar Church-Mason canoodling was going on in France, where Freemasonry has an even stronger anti-clerical tradition than in Italy. The French Revolution was largely inspired by Masonic notions and by masons such as Diderot, Voltaire and Lafayette. French history thereafter is littered with Masonic onslaughts on Catholics and Catholicism...

In March 1985 the Vatican newspaper, L' Osservatore Romano, published an article showing that all those cosy chats between folk like Harry Carr and Cardinal Heenan had missed the central issue. What mattered was not which lot of Masons plotted against the Church but whether Freemasonry's 'philosophical ideas and moral conceptions' could ever be reconciled with the fundamentals of Christian faith. Even a century before, when the Papacy had just been territorially destroyed by Masons, its opposition had been primarily doctrinal. In Humanum Genus Leo XIII condemned the brotherhood's 'rationistic naturalism'. Elsewhere, he said: 'Christianity and Freemasonry are essentially irreconcilable, so that enrolment in one means separation from the other.' L' Osservatore Romano expressed in its Latin way most of the objections later raised by Britain's Protestant Churches.

Above all it must be remembered that the community of 'Freemasons' and its moral obligations are presented as a progressive system of symbols of an extremely binding nature. The

rigid rule of secrecy which prevails there further strengthens the weight of the interaction of signs and ideas. For the members, this climate of secrecy entails above all the risk of becoming an instrument of strategies unknown to them.

Freemasonry's 'relativism', its failure to differentiate between right and wrong paths to God, reducing all religions to facets of 'a broader and elusive truth', is unacceptable. A Catholic cannot

live his relation with God in a two-fold mode... dividing it into a supraconfessional humanitarian form and an interior Christian form. He cannot cultivate relations of two types of God, nor express his relation with the Creator through symbolic forms of two types... On the one hand, a Catholic Christian cannot at the same time share in the full communion of Christian brotherhood and, on the other, look upon his Christian brother, from the Masonic perspective, as an 'outsider'.

After fifteen years of flirting with Freemasonry, the Church had come back to where it had stood before Vatican II, and before that for more than 200 years. Yet from 1974 an unknown number of Catholics had joined the Craft. The Vatican has still not made clear where they now stand. Should they follow a 1911 decree which instructed Catholic Masons to move into 'passive membership' abstaining from all participation and 'communion' with Freemasonry, or quit altogether if they can so do without causing themselves or their family 'serious harm'? Without express guidance, Catholics already active in Freemasonry will probably stay active. They may find 'grave sin' more fun than Holy Communion.

The dalliance is over, but crucial questions still need to be answered. Why did the kissing stop in 1981? And how had it ever begun? Was it just Vatican II which caused the Church to drop its centuries-old hostility or was some other force at work?

A 'topside' interpretation might claim the kissing had to stop as soon as Germany's bishops produced a devastating statement on six years of discussion with their Masonic countrymen. In 1980 they reported: 'It is impossible to belong to the Catholic Church and to Freemasonry at the same time.' For all the Craft's humanitarian and charitable aspects, and its stand against 'materialistic ideology', it still denies the 'objective validity of revealed truth'. Being a Mason 'is to question the fundamental principles of Christian life'. The bishops slated Freemasonry for its many 'isms': indifferentism, relativism, subjectivism, deism. To the Masons 'all religions are competitive attempts to express the ultimate unattainable truth about God'.

This 'undermines the faith of a Catholic' whose Church - despite Vatican II - still lays claim to absolute truth.

The bishops' statement was published ten months before the Vatican made its 1981 declaration that Catholic Masons still faced excommunication, but everything they said was as plain as a Swiss Guard's pikestaff. Anyone with the slightest awareness of Catholic dogma and Masonic 'tolerance' would already have known the two could never be reconciled without intellectual dishonesty. It is unlikely, therefore, that the volte-face had nothing to do with the German bishops but everything to do with the scandal of Propaganda Massonica Due, the 'regular' Masonic Lodge otherwise known as P2.

I tell the inside Masonic story of P2 in Chapter 33. Here I point out that this plot to subvert the entire Italian nation first penetrated St Peter's in the 1960s, soon after Vatican II. It was only on the eve of the P2 scandal that the Sacred Congregation published its 1981 'no-change' statement. P2's shocking 'state within a state' membership lists were discovered one month later, but magistrates had already been investigating P2's Grand Master Lucio Gelli for two years and knew how deeply he and his Masonic cronies had subverted the Vatican in the eighteen years since Paul VI had become Pope.

Now the Vatican suddenly realized Freemasonry was still a perfect vehicle for conspiracies against Church and State. 'Times change,' the English bishops had said in 1974. They failed to say that Freemasonry remains the same. The P2 scandal was 1738 and 1848 all over again. 'Men of goodwill' in Britain, France and Italy would bluster that P2 had nothing to do with 'regular' Freemasonry, but this was a lie and those who uttered it were either fools or knaves. P2 was a recognized part of the 'regular' Grand Orient of Italy - itself recognized by the Grand Lodge of England in 1972 - and three successive Italian Grand Masters were up to their necks in the conspiracy.

**Yes Virginia, Freemasonry Lies
'Spooks in Aprons', Chapter 33 Excerpts
Inside the Brotherhood, Martin Short
Harper Collins, 1989**

Despite the combined claims of Bentine, Knight and Chinaman, I sense that this 'KGB infiltration' view of British Freemasonry is a distraction: not invalid, but far less significant than the greater

truth that stolid Whitehall bureaucrats have joined Freemasonry in far greater numbers than any spies. Such mandarins may be mediocre, even incompetent, but they are the people who keep the ship of state afloat. If a few of them corruptly feather their nests by feeding juicy contracts to Masonic friends in private industry, so be it. These men may not be the backbone of the civil service, but they constitute several ribs.

Knight went more dangerously off-course with a second KGB theory: that Italy's P2 Masonic Lodge conspiracy was a KGB plot. He was fed this idea by someone whom he described as 'an impeccable source within British Intelligence', but his strongest evidence appears to have been the perverse fact that of all Italy's leading political parties, 'only the Communist Party had no links with P2' and so could exploit the P2 scandal with impunity. 'From the beginning,' he continued, 'Lodge P2 was a KGB-sponsored programme aimed at destabilizing Italy, weakening NATO's southern flank, sweeping the Communists into power in Italy, and sending resultant shock waves throughout the western world.'

Even when The Brotherhood first appeared, this seemed an unlikely story. Five years later it is clear that Knight's 'impeccable source' had filled him with disinformation. To understand this government spook's motives we have to explore the P2 story from several angles, but first a brief summary of P2.

In March 1981 two Milan magistrates were investigating the fake kidnapping in 1979 of a swindling Sicilian-born international banker, Michele Sindona. They were also probing his role as financial advisor to the Vatican and the Mafia. They discovered that, while he was hiding in Palermo, one of his 'minders' had travelled 600 miles north to Arezzo to visit a textile manufacturer, Licio Gelli. They promptly ordered a search of Gelli's premises. On 17 March finance policemen discovered 962 Italian names on lists kept in his office safe and a suitcase. The names belonged to members of a Masonic Lodge named Propaganda Massonica, also known as P2. Gelli was its Venerable Master.

What astonished the investigators was that the names on the lists amounted to a state within a state. They included forty-three MPs (among them three cabinet ministers), forty-three generals and eight admirals (including the current heads of all the armed forces), security service bosses, hundreds of public servants and diplomats, the police chiefs of Italy's four biggest cities, industrialists and financiers, television stars and twenty-four journalists, including the editor and publisher of Corriere della Sera. Sindona was a member.

So was another controversial banker, Roberto Calvi, who would later be found hanging under London's Blackfriars Bridge.

But who was Gelli? In succeeding months the magistrates discovered that this seeming small-town industrialist was a fascist war criminal who had opportunistically betrayed his colleagues as soon as he realized Germany was going to lose the war. A few years later his past caught up with him, so he fled to Argentina and made valuable political friends such as General Peron. In the mid-1960s he returned to Italy and was appointed Argentina's honorary consul. He soon had connections everywhere. He had no problems doing textile business in Eastern Europe, but he also popped up in Rome's right-wing circles. He even had friends in America's Republican Party, through whom he was invited to President Reagan's 1981 inauguration. He was masterly at collecting influential people. He manipulated them to aggrandize himself. At times his motive seemed to be financial, at others ideological, but what was his ideology? What mystified the Milan magistrates - and other people on his trail - was, who did he really work for? For Italy's secret services, for America's CIA or Russia's KGB?

The KGB theory was always the least likely. There was little evidence to support it, whereas there was overwhelming proof of Gelli's continuous involvement with fascism for more than forty years. Significantly, the 'P2-KGB plot' fantasy resembles a parallel propaganda myth which fooled many other journalists at the time: that the 1981 assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II was a Bulgarian plot. 'Western intelligence experts are now generally agreed that the attempted killing was inspired by the KGB,' wrote Stephen Knight. If Western Intelligence experts really believed that, the West was (and is) in deep trouble.

It has now been shown that this theory was concocted by two Americans: a former CIA operative named Paul Henze and a right-wing journalist named Michael Ledeen. Ledeen had previously known a rising Italian businessman, Francesco Pazienza, who had links with SISMI: Italian Military Intelligence. However, Pazienza rejects the 'Bulgarian plot' theory and claims he is himself the victim of black propaganda, falsely branded as a P2 member and as Gelli's nominated successor. He is a Mason, but says he never met Gelli. In 1988 he was sentenced to a ten years in prison over the 1980 bombing of Bologna railway station, but he claims he will be cleared on appeal.

At a future date I hope to portray the political, military, and commercial rackets which P2 members have continued to perpetrate

years after P2 was officially dissolved. Here I show how the reactionary forces, in Italy and America, which created P2 are tied in with British Intelligence and British Freemasonry. Many of my comments are based on evidence gathered by an Italian Parliamentary Inquiry into P2. Its 1984 report was never published in English. Indeed, it has rarely been mentioned in the British or American media, even though its contents have world wide significance. The report also helps explain why - and on what basis - British Intelligence misled Stephen Knight into believing P2 was a KGB plot. To understand P2, however, we must have some idea of the history of Freemasonry in Italy.

The brotherhood has had a controversial history ever since it reached Italy in the early 1730's(see Chapter 8), but its political ascendancy was ended in 1925 when it was outlawed by the fascist dictator Benito Mussolini. Twenty years later it was legalized again, but only after the US Office of Strategic Services (the forerunner of the CIA) had pressured Italy's weak and impoverished government. The OSS planned to use Freemasonry just as it used the Mafia: to prop up a sickly democracy threatened by Soviet-inspired destabilization and the prospect of a communist election victory.

The OSS/CIA backed Italy's strongest Masonic faction, the Grand Orient, which today has some 15,000 members. From 1961 until 1970 its Grand Master was Giordano Gambernini who (whether for the CIA or his own ends) sought to influence Italian elections by canvassing for candidates who were Freemasons and giving them money. At the time he was desperate to win recognition from the United Grand Lodge of England, which most 'regular' Masons in the world regard as the sole source of legitimacy. If England could be persuaded to recognize the Grand Orient, all other Grand Lodges would follow suit. England had always refused, largely because of Italian Freemasonry's historic involvement in politics. This offends the Basic Principles on which England's Grand Lodge decides whether to recognize any other. Principal 7 states: 'The discussion of politics and religion within the Lodge shall be strictly prohibited.' By meddling in politics Gambernini was breaching this principal, so the Grand Lodge of England should have shunned him like the plague. Instead it acted as if in total favour - or blissful ignorance - of his political game.

In the 1960s Grand Lodge was more distracted by the fact that the Grand Orient (also known as 'Palazzo Giustiani') was one of two Italian Grand Lodges clamouring for recognition. There was also the Palazzo del Gesu, with some 5,000 members. James Stubbs, then

England's Grand Secretary, described the dilemma in his 1985 biography, Freemasonry in my Life:

It was... well known in Italy that we were not prepared to plump for one, leaving the other out, or even to recognize them both; eventually the moment came when at last the cracks were papered over and the Palazzo Giustiniani seemed to be in control. We felt justified in recognizing Italy.

The man who had master-minded the unification of the Grand Orient and Palazzo del Gesu, paving the way for recognition by England, was none other than the subsequently notorious Licio Gelli. He had entered Freemasonry only in 1965, yet he was instantly recommended to Grand Master Gamberini as someone 'able to make a great contribution to the institution in terms of recruiting qualified people'; in other words, to draw into Masonry men dedicated to right-wing goals. If we remember the OSS's fierce anti-communist intent in resurrecting Freemasonry after World War II, and Gamberini's 1960s electioneering, it is clear that the political meddling of modern Italian Freemasonry did not start with Licio Gelli. He merely increased its effectiveness.

In 1970 a Florence doctor named Lino Salvini became Grand Master. This freed Gamberini to act as the Grand Orient's roving ambassador in the search for international recognition. At the same time he sought to develop Propaganda Massonica Lodge (P2) as a nexus for the Italian Right to seize control of Italian society, if ever the need arose. The lodge had been founded in 1877 to meet the needs of provincial Masons living temporarily in Rome and thus unable to attend their home lodges. It soon evolved into a 'reserved' or secret lodge whose members were known only to the Grand Secretary, allegedly to protect them from Papal wrath.

In the mid-1960s P2 had only fourteen members, but in 1970 Salvini asked Gelli to 'restructure' the lodge. Suddenly numbers soared. Within a decade it had 400 members, a few years later almost 1,000. Gelli has received all the credit and blame for this achievement, but Gamberini supervised many of the initiation ceremonies which Gelli performed in P2's Excelsior Hotel headquarters. Grand Master Salvini was just as involved. In December 1971 he told P2 members that henceforth they could pursue their 'profane' (worldly) aims under the cover of their concealed order:

If until now it has not been possible to meet at our places of work, with this restructuring we shall have the possibility and

pleasure of more frequent meetings, to discuss not only the various problems of a social and economic order which interest our brothers, but also those regarding the whole of society.

The minutes of one P2 meeting in the early 1970s reveal what kind of society appealed to Gelli, Salvini and Gamberini. Gelli wrote that members discussed:

the political and economic situation of Italy, the threat of the Italian Communist Party, in accord with clericalism, aiming at the conquest of power, the lack of power in the forces of law and order, the spread of immorality, indiscipline and all the worst aspects of morality and civic virtue... relationships with the Italian state.

In a note to absent members Gelli added:

Many have asked... how we should behave if one morning we awoke to find the clerico-Communists had seized power, whether it would be best to resign ourselves to passive acquiescence, or to take on well-defined positions - and if so, on the basis of what emergency plan.

In other words, P2 was a secret cell for the preparation of a right-wing coup like those which engulfed Greece in 1967 and Chile in 1973 (in Chile's case, to overthrow President Allende, who was a communist Freemason of an 'irregular' Masonic order). Gelli hosted frequent P2 meetings where the politics of destabilization and subversion were discussed by police chiefs, army generals, security service bosses and appeal court judges. He knew this was not orthodox Freemasonry: 'Philosophy has been banished, but we felt we had to do this in order to tackle only solid and concrete arguments affecting national life.'

During these years Grand Master Salvini knew exactly what Gelli was doing, indeed he had told him to do it. The same year that P2 'banished philosophy' with Salvini's blessing, Salvini himself was blessed by the Grand Lodge of England. In September 1972 Great Queen Street declared it was 'convinced that the time is ripe and conditions are favourable' for recognizing the Grand Orient.

The 1970s were some of the blackest years in the history of modern Italy. The state was torn apart by left- and right- wing terror, but many of the horrific acts originally blamed on the Left (from the Red Brigades to the Communist Party) turned out to be acts of black propaganda by the extreme Right. These included the 'Italicus' train bombing in 1974, in which twelve people were killed, and the 1980

Bologna Station massacre in which eight-five died. In both events P2 had a guiding control.

In July 1976 the Grand Orient formally suspended P2, but Salvini secretly authorized it to carry on. At a meeting in Rome in September a 'democratic' Mason named Francesco Siniscalchi asked Salvini to answer a series of questions on Gelli and P2. Siniscalchi added that if a 'profane' (non-Masonic) magistrate ever asked him what he knew about Masonic wrongdoing he would have to tell the truth. Salvini not only refused to answer the questions; he expelled Siniscalchi and other 'democratic' Masons from the Grand Orient as traitors for daring to confront him.

In December 1976 he (Siniscalchi) gave Rome judges a dossier exposing numerous illegalities by Gelli and his P2 clan. It was this dossier, and other discoveries by Siniscalchi, which first exposed the P2 conspiracy to 'profane' eyes. Five years later, when finance police raided Gelli's office, they already had a good idea from Siniscalchi what they might find.

In 1987 I wrote to Grand Secretary Ernesto Zampieri and asked why the Grand Orient had not reinstated its expelled brother Siniscalchi and honoured him for the sterling service which he had done Italian Freemasonry exposing the evil of P2. Zampieri's reply made no reference to Siniscalchi but stated: 'We can assure you that our organs of Justice do act with a great sense of responsibility from the safeguard of our institution.' This presumably means Siniscalchi will not be reinstated, probably because the Grand Orient feels he has done it no good whatsoever. Like many Masons who practise the movement's finest principals, Siniscalchi has been ostracized by his Masonic bosses who, no doubt, would have preferred him to keep his mouth shut.

In September 1981 the Grand Lodge of England felt obliged to explain where it stood to its own bemused members, 'in view of the very wide publicity attracted by the so-called P2 Lodge'. It said it had recognized the Grand Orient in 1972 when satisfied that it accepted Principle no. 7 banning discussion of politics and religion. Now, Grand Lodge said, it 'had been informed' that the Grand Orient had suspended P2 in 1976 and had authorized no Masonic activity by P2 since then. Licio Gelli had also been suspended, and the Grand Orient had recently reaffirmed adherence to the Principles of Recognition, including no. 7. Grand Lodge would keep the matter under review, but in the meantime did not intend to take action.

Had Grand Lodge 'been informed' of the real truth it would have had to take action, even to withdraw recognition, but its 1981 statement contained many untruths. P2 was not a 'so-called' lodge. It had been a legitimate lodge for almost a century. Furthermore, its suspension in 1976 had been a sham for as we have seen, Grand Master Salvini promptly authorized it to carry on. In 1977 he instructed Gelli to continue 'perfecting the Masonic vocation of P2 members:

You will answer only to me for what you do to this end, promoting and encouraging those activities which you think of use and interest to Masonry. I am sure that you will conduct the task with the fearless spirit you showed when faced by the treacherous attacks of the traitors of the institution.

Grand Master Salvini resigned in 1978, but his successor, General Ennio Gattelli, continued to accept all Gelli's recruits as legitimate Freemasons. In 1980 the Grand Orient was still accepting lump sum payments from Licio Gelli as P2 members' dues. Battelli also supplied Gelli with blank Grand Orient membership cards. In autumn 1981, when P2 had at last been officially dissolved and Gelli suspended, the Grand Orient transferred P2's members to other lodges: an act which proved the P2 shut-down was a cosmetic device. In reality the lodges reactionary ethos was now spread like a virus throughout the Grand Orient.

Salvini had been forced to resign because of intense American Masonic dissatisfaction over his relationship with Gelli. Yet the new Grand Master, General Ennio Battelli, brought even greater shame on the movement. It turned out that Gelli had paid for Battelli's Masonic election campaign and then gave him regular pay-offs in succeeding years. The general would later be charged with criminal involvement with the Bologna Station massacre.

When England's Grand Lodge goes silent about a Masonic controversy the nearest thing to a leak may be found in the magazine Masonic Square. In March 1987 it published an article on Italian Freemasonry which referred to the 'bogus P2 lodge, a spurious body not affiliated in any way to the Grand Orient.' Was this untruth published through ignorance or had the writer been fed disinformation to delude England's Masonic faithful? Either way the writer also claimed that the Grand Orient 'enjoys the warmest relations' with the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland.

Perhaps these 'warmest relations' have blinded England's Grand Lodge to the need to discover and disseminate the truth about Italian Freemasonry. To spread the myth that P2 was a perversion,

rather than the logical climax, of the Grand Orient tradition would obviously suit the Grand Orient. In the early 1980's not only England's Masonic masses but also much of the Western press were hoodwinked into thinking P2 was not part of Freemasonry at all. This was necessary if a second act of deception - blaming the P2 scandal on the KGB - could be achieved without tainting the Grand Orient or the Grand Lodge of England. This may explain why British Intelligence sought to mislead Stephen Knight in 1983.

Martin Short wrote, produced and narrated the prize-winning ITV documentary series on the Mafia in America, *Crime Incorporated*. To accompany the series, he wrote *Crime Inc.: A History of Organized Crime in America*. In addition to writing feature articles for *The Times*, *The Spectator*, *New Statesman*, *Time Out* and *Special Forces*, he co-authored (in 1977) *The Fall of Scotland Yard*, about police corruption in London. He is also the author of *Lundy: The Destruction of Scotland Yard's Finest Detective* (1991).

Inside the Brotherhood, by Martin Short After reading history at Cambridge University, he worked - from 1969 to 1984 - on major current affairs programmes for the ITV companies Thames, Granada and London Weekend (on the Lebanon) and for Channel 4's *Dispatches* series (on the international arms trade). In 1988 he presented Charlie Richardson and the British Mafia for Longshot Productions and Channel 4. His series based on *Inside the Brotherhood* appeared on ITV in 1989, and in 1994 he produced and presented the ITV series *Gangbusters*.

sindona Michele Sindona.

Pope Paul VI's banker and confidant. This was part of an elaborate scheme by the Mafia, the CIA, MI-5, Neo Fascist Groups, and the defacto controlling body of all Italian Freemasonry - P2 (which was called by Italy's Interior Minister a State within a State) to subvert, bankrupt, and destroy the Vatican and the Parliamentary System and replace it with a "Presidential" system (i.e. a Dictatorship).

Born in 1920 in Patti, Sicily. Sindona became the most successful tax lawyer and the most powerful banker in Italy. Years later, as one of the wealthiest men in the world, Sindona was identified by the Italian and U.S. governments as the Mafia's banker (appointed as such at a International Mafia conclave in Palermo Sicily in 1957). He was accused of washing heroin profits through his banks and of

smuggling currency out of Italy through the Bank of the Vatican and help organize with P2 Grand Master Gelli and the CIA/MI5 the coup in Greece in '69, an attempted coup in Italy plus others in Spain and Latin America).

In 1972 Sindona purchased controlling interest of Franklin National Bank. Two years later Franklin Bank collapsed, the largest bank failure in American history. On August 2, 1979, while under indictment, Michele Sindona disappeared and was believed to have been kidnapped by left-wing terrorists(subsequently proved to be a staged kidnapping by Sindona and the Mafia to avoid trial). He reappeared on October 16, 1979, was later convicted of bank fraud, and was sentenced to twenty five years in prison. P2 Masonic Lodge Member.

**St. Peter's Banker
Luigi DiFonzo
Franklin Watts Ltd.
1983**

Roberto Calvi Roberto Calvi, Banco Ambrosiano President.

Member Masonic Lodge P2. Received millions of dollars from CIA and British Intelligence which he laundered to P2 for support of various right wing activities and coups throughout Southern Europe and Latin America. Calvi's secretary "falls" to her death from 4th floor window of Banks International Headquarters and then the next day Calvi is found hanging from Black Friars bridge in London with a false passport and twelve pounds of bricks and rocks shoved in his pockets(i.e. masonry).

**St. Peter's Banker
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1983**

flavio carboni Flavio Carboni and Roberto Calvi's Flight

Flavio Carboni is perhaps the key figure in the final stages of Calvi's life. From January 1982 onwards,he would with with increasing frequency visit Calvi in Milan, or for weekend consultations at Drezzo. The small Sardinian, who once boasted to his family he would become the richest man in Italy, would be companion and paid conseller to the chairman of Ambrosiano, right up to the end. Vaunting contacts among the Roman politicians, the press and the highest echelons of Italian Freemasonry, Carboni took

over the role that Gelli had once assumed for Calvi - and more besides.

For Carboni was not only on good terms with Armando Corona, who in March 1982 was to become the head of the Italian Grand Orient. He could also enlist the services of such as Ernesto Diotallevi and Danilo Abbruciati, notorious bosses of the Rome underworld. Magistrates would later charge that Carboni's building and property businesses were used to recycle the proceeds of organized crime and maybe right-wing terrorism also. In most of the subsequent discoveries which seemed to link Calvi's Ambrosiano with common crime, the name of Carboni would be a constant thread.

Calvi was attracted to Carboni, as he was to Pazienza, by his promised access to hidden and therefore real power. Precisely to what extent his helpers were in collusion it is hard to establish. But Calvi feared Carboni, just as he was afraid of Pazienza with his vaguely threatening braggadoccio, and well-advertised secret service connections. Reading of The Godfather was not only instructive of the advantages of hidden power, but also of the fate which might befall those who offended it.

Calvi was by this stage scared not only for his own safety (his retinues of bullet-proof Alfa Romeos and bodyguards were costing his bank four million lire every day) but for that of his family as well. From February on, he was imploring his wife to leave Italy for somewhere less dangerous. In May, and with some reluctance, she finally yielded to his urgings and went to join their son Carlo in Washington. And with good reason, for the violent undertows gripping Ambrosiano's affairs had broken dramatically to the surface.

The Life & Death of Roberto Calvi

**Rupert Cornwell, Rome Correspondant, The Financial Post
Victor Gollancz Ltd, 1983**

ambrosiano Roberto Rosone

Despite his lofty rank of general manager and deputy chairman of Banco Ambrosiano, had lived for many years in a modest first-floor flat in a corner block of Via Olofredi, close to the central station in Milan. On the ground floor of the same building was the branch office No. 18 of Ambrosiano in Milan. It was protected round the clock by armed private guards, as indeed are bank premises up and down Italy, as a matter of routine.

On the morning of April 27, 1982 Rosone left as usual for his office shortly after 8 a.m. Suddenly, as he turned into the street, a man with a pistol stepped forward and fired wounding him in the legs. But the guards had quickly noticed the danger and shot back, killing the assailant outright. To their great surprise police identified the corpse as that of no ordinary Milanese delinquent, but the important Rome gangland figure Abbruciati.

Abbruciati's links with Carboni, and indeed Carboni's intimate dealings with Calvi, were not yet public knowledge. Even so, the episode raised more questions than it answered, casting a yet more sinister shadow over Ambrosiano. What was a high-ranking gangster from Rome doing carrying out a task that would normally fall to a minion? Was the attack a botched attempt at murder, to punish Rosone for some affront to the underworld; or was it a deliberate warning and no more, delivered in classic fashion? Or was the warning intended not for him but for Calvi himself? Later, after Calvi and Ambrosiano had perished, a still darker possibility emerged - that Calvi himself, through Carboni and Abbruciati, was directly or indirectly responsible for the attack on his own vice-chairman, suspected of plotting against him.

What is certain is that Carboni was already receiving money from Calvi. In Italy, Ambrosiano lent large sums to companies owned by Carboni, and Calvi even provided finance to help the campaign of Corona to become the new head of Italian Freemasonry.

**The Life & Death of Roberto Calvi
Rupert Cornwell, Rome Correspondant, The Financial Post
Victor Gollancz Ltd, 1983**

Calvi Corpse Timeline

Early September 1978: Pope John Paul I asks his secretary of state, Cardinal Jean Villot, to initiate an investigation into Vatican bank operations.

September 28, 1978: John Paul I presents Cardinal Villot with a list of people who are to be transferred, asked for their resignations, or reassigned. All the people on the list are suspected to be members of the Freemason's group "P2." The reshuffle of power will have major implications for the existing Vatican power structure and its financial dealings.

September 29, 1978: John Paul I found dead in his bed. Villot issues false statements to the press about the circumstances

surrounding the death, removes key evidence from John Paul's room, and orders the body to be embalmed immediately without an autopsy.

October 1978: John Paul II to replace John Paul I. None of John Paul I's instructions to Villot before his death are carried out.

January 21, 1979: Murder of Judge Emilio Alessandrini, the Milan magistrate investigating the activities of Banco Ambrosiano, whose director, Roberto Calvi, has close ties with Michele Sindona and the Vatican.

March 20, 1979: Murder of Mino Pecorelli, an investigative journalist in the process of publishing articles exposing the membership and dealings of "P2" -- a powerful group of Freemasons whose membership was involved in Vatican financial dealings, and whose founder, Lucio Gelli, was deeply connected with Roberto Calvi.

March 25, 1979: Arrests on false charges of Mario Sarcinelli and Paolo Baffi of the Bank of Italy. The two men were pressing for action on the investigation of the financial dealings of Roberto Calvi and Banco Ambrosiano.

July 11, 1979: Murder of Giorgio Ambrosioli following his testimony concerning Michele Sindona's financial dealings with Calvi and other Vatican interests, the activities of P2 and its members among powerful government and business circles, and the connections between Calvi, Sindona, and Bishop Paul Marcinkus of the Vatican Bank.

July 13, 1979: Murder of Lt. Col. Antonio Varisco, head of the Rome security service, who was investigating the activities and membership of P2 and had spoken with Giorgio Ambrosioli two days before Ambrosioli's death.

July 21, 1979: Murder of Boris Guilano, the Palermo police deputy superintendent and head of Palermo CID. Guilano had spoken with Giorgio Ambrosioli two days before Ambrosioli's death concerning Sindona's laundering of Mafia money through the Vatican Bank into Switzerland.

October 1979: Bomb explosion at the apartment of Enrico Cuccia, managing director of Mediobanca and witness to Sindona's threat to the life of Giorgio Ambrosioli.

February 2, 1980: The Vatican withdraws at the last moment its agreement that Cardinals Guiseppe Caprio and Sergio Guerri and Bishop Paul Marcinkus will provide videotaped depositions on behalf of Michele Sindona in his trial in the US on charges of fraud, conspiracy and misappropriation of funds in connection with the collapse of Franklin National Bank.

May 13, 1980: Michele Sindona attempts suicide in jail.

June 13, 1980: Michele Sindona sentenced to 25 years.

July 8, 1980: Roberto Calvi attempts suicide while in jail on charges of fraud, etc. Later released on bail and reconfirmed as chairman of Banco Ambrosiano.

September 1, 1981: The Vatican Bank, apparently at the request of Roberto Calvi, issues "letters of comfort" acknowledging its controlling interest in, and assuming responsibility for, a more than 1 billion dollar debt of a number of banks controlled by Calvi.

January 12, 1981: A group of shareholders in Banco Ambrosiano send a letter to John Paul II outlining the connections between the Vatican Bank, Roberto Calvi and the P2 and the Mafia. The letter is never acknowledged.

April 27, 1982: Attempted murder of Roberto Rosone, general manager and deputy chairman of Banco Ambrosiano, who was trying to "clean up" the bank's operation.

June 17, 1982: Roberto Calvi found hanged to death from a bridge in London. A few days later, a 1.3 billion dollar "hole" is discovered in Banco Ambrosiano, Milan.

October 2, 1982: Guiseppe Dellacha, executive at Banco Ambrosiano, dead of a fall from a window of Banco Ambrosiano, in Milan.

March 23, 1986: Michele Sindona found dead of poisoning in the Italian jail to which he had been extradited on charges of ordering the murder of Giorgio Ambrosioli.

digitalis Albino Luciano, Pope John Paul I

"On September 28, 1978, he had been pope for thirty-three days. In little more than a month he had initiated various courses of action that, had they been completed, would have had a direct and

dynamic effect on us all. The majority in this world would have applauded his decisions, a minority would have been appalled. The man who had quickly been labeled "the smiling pope" intended to remove the smiles from a number of faces on the following day."

"The Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Jean Villot... studied the list of appointments, resignations to be asked for and transfers the pope had handed him. He had advised, argued, and remonstrated, but to no avail. Luciani had been adamant."

"It was by any standards a dramatic reshuffle. It would set the Church in new directions - directions that Villot, and the others on the list who were about to be replaced, considered highly dangerous...."

"There was one common denominator, one fact that linked each of the men about to be replaced. Villot was aware of it. More important, so was the pope. It had been one of the factors that had caused him to act, to strip these men of real power...it was Freemasonry."

"The evidence the pope had acquired indicated that within the Vatican City State there were over one hundred Masons, ranging from cardinals to priests."

"Luciani was further preoccupied with an illegal Masonic lodge that had penetrated far beyond Italy in its search for wealth and power. It called itself P2. The fact that it had penetrated the Vatican walls and formed links with priests, bishops, and even cardinals made P2 anathema to Albino Luciani."

"That evening, September 28, 1978, thirty-three days after his election, Pope John Paul 1, "the smiling pope", was declared dead. No official death certificate has ever been issued. No autopsy ever performed. His body was hastily embalmed. Cause of death: Unknown. And Vatican business continues..."

"The facts are here in meticulous detail, documenting widespread corruption within the Vatican and presenting a compelling case that six powerful men, to protect their vast financial and political operations, decided on a shocking course of action -- Pope John Paul I must die."

**David Yallop
In Gods' Name
Bantam Books, 1984**

Vatican and Freemasonry A List of Masons in the Vatican and Italian Church?

The following is a list of Masons reprinted with some updates from the Bulletin de l'Occident Chrétien Nr.12, July, 1976, (Directeur Pierre Fautrad a Fye - 72490 Bourg Le Roi.) All of the men on this list, if they in fact be Masons, are excommunicated by Canon Law 2338. Each man's name is followed by his position, if known; the date he was initiated into Masonry, his code #; and his code name, if known:

Albondi, Alberto. Bishop of Livorno, (Leghorn). Initiated 8-5-58; I.D. # 7-2431.

Abrech, Pio. In the Sacred Congregation Bishops. 11-27-67; # 63-143.

Acquaviva, Sabino. Professor of Religion at the University of Padova, (Padua). 12-3-69; # 275-69.

Alessandro, Father Gottardi. (Addressed as Doctor in Masonic meetings.) President of Fratelli Maristi. 6-14-59.

Angelini Fiorenzo. Bishop of Messenel Greece. 10-14-57; # 14-005.

Argentieri, Benedetto. Patriarch to the Holy See. 3-11-70; # 298-A.

Bea, Augustin. Cardinal. Secretary of State (next to Pope) under Pope John XXIII and Pope Paul VI.

Baggio, Sebastiano. Cardinal. Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops. (This is a crucial Congregation since it appoints new Bishops.) Secretary of State under Pope John Paul II from 1989 to 1992. 8-14-57; # 85-1640. Masonic code name "SEBA." He controls consecration of Bishops.

Balboni, Dante. Assistant to the Vatican Pontifical . Commission for Biblical Studies. 7-23-68; # 79-14 "BALDA."

Baldassarri Salvatore. Bishop of Ravenna, Italy. 2-19-58; # 4315-19. "BALSA."

Balducci, Ernesto. Religious sculpture artist. 5-16-66; # 1452-3.

Basadonna, Ernesto. Prelate of Milan, 9-14-63; # 9-243. "BASE."

Batelli, Guilio. Lay member of many scientific academies. 8-24-59; # 29-A. "GIBA."

Bedeschi, Lorenzo. 2-19-59; # 24-041. "BELO."

Belloli, Luigi. Rector of Seminar; Lombardy, Ita- ly. 4-6-58; # 22-04. "BELLU."

Belluchi, Cleto. Coadjutor Bishop of Fermo, Italy. 6-4-68; # 12-217.

Bettazzi, Luigi. Bishop of Ivera, Italy. 5-11-66; # 1347-45. "LUBE."

Bianchi, Giovanni. 10-23-69; # 2215-11. "BIGI."

Biffi, Franco, Msgr. Rector of Church of St. John Lateran Pontifical University. He is head of this University and controls what is being taught. He heard confessions of Pope Paul VI. 8-15-59. "BIFRA."

Bicarella, Mario. Prelate of Vicenza, Italy. 9-23-64; # 21-014. "BIMA."

Bonicelli, Gaetano. Bishop of Albano, Italy. 5-12-59; # 63-1428, "BOGA."

Boretti, Giancarlo. 3-21-65; # 0-241. "BORGI."

Bovone, Alberto. Substitute Secretary of the Sacred Office. 3-30-67; # 254-3. "ALBO."

Brini, Mario. Archbishop. Secretary of Chinese, Oriental, and Pagans. Member of Pontifical Commission to Russia. Has control of rewriting Canon Law. 7-7-68; # 15670. "MABRI."

Bugnini, Annibale. Archbishop. Wrote Novus Ordo Mass. Envoy to Iran, 4-23-63; # 1365-75. "BUAN."

Buro, Michele. Bishop. Prelate of Pontifical Commission to Latin America, 3-21-69; # 140-2. "BUMI."

Cacciavillan, Agostino. Secretariat of State. 11-6-60; # 13-154.

Cameli, Umberto. Director in Office of the Ecclesiastical Affairs of Italy in regard to education in Catholic doctrine. 11-17-60; # 9-1436.

Caprile, Giovanni. Director of Catholic Civil Affairs. 9-5-57; # 21-014. "GICA."

Caputo, Giuseppe. 11-15-71; # 6125-63. "GICAP."

Casaroli, Agostino. Cardinal. Secretary of State (next to Pope) under Pope John Paul II since July 1, 1979 until retired in 1989. 9-28-57; # 41-076. "CASA."

Cerruti, Flaminio. Chief of the Office of the University of Congregation Studies. 4-2-60; # 76-2154. "CEFLA."

Ciarrocchi, Mario. Bishop. 8-23-62; # 123-A. "CIMA."

Chiavacci, Enrico. Professor of Moral Theology, University of Florence, Italy. 7-2-70; # 121-34. "CHIE."

Conte, Carmelo. 9-16-67; # 43-096. "CONCA."

Csele, Alessandro. 3-25-60; # 1354-09. "ALCSE."

Dadagio, Luigi. Papal Nuncio to Spain. Archbishop of Lero. 9-8-67. # 43-B. "LUDA."

D'Antonio, Enzo. Archbishop of Trivento. 6-21-69; # 214-53.

De Bous, Donato. Bishop. 6-24-68; # 321-02. "DEBO."

Del Gallo Reoccagiovane, Luigi. Bishop.

Del Monte, Aldo. Bishop of Novara, Italy. 8-25-69; # 32-012. "ADELMO."

Faltin, Danielle. 6-4-70; # 9-1207. "FADA."

Ferraioli, Giuseppe. Member of Sacred Congregation for Public Affairs. 11-24-69; # 004-125. "GIFE."

Franzoni, Giovanni. 3-2-65; # 2246-47. "FRAGI."

Gemmiti, Vito. Sacred Congregation of Bishops. 3-25-68; # 54-13. "VIGE."

Girardi, Giulio. 9-8-70; # 1471-52. "GIG."

Fiorenzo, Angelinin. Bishop. Title of Commendator of the Holy Spirit. Vicar General of Roman Hospitals. Controls hospital trust funds. Consecrated Bishop 7-19-56; joined Masons 10-14-57.

Giustetti, Massimo. 4-12-70; # 13-065. "GIUMA."

Gottardi, Alessandro. Procurator and Postulator General of Fratelli Maristi. Archbishop of Trent. 6-13-59; # 2437-14. "ALGO."

Gozzini, Mario. 5-14-70; # 31-11. "MAGO."

Grazinai, Carlo. Rector of the Vatican Minor Seminary. 7-23-61; # 156-3. "GRACA."

Gregagnin, Antonio. Tribune of First Causes for Beatification. 10-19-67; # 8-45. "GREa."

Gualdrini, Franco. Rector of Capranica. 5-22-61; # 21-352. "GUFRA."

Ilari, Annibale. Abbot. 3-16-69; # 43-86. "ILA."

Laghi, Pio. Nunzio, Apostolic Delegate to Argentina, and then to U.S.A. until 1995. 8-24-69; # 0-538. "LAPI."

Lajolo, Giovanni. Member of Council of Public Affairs of the Church. 7-27-70; # 21-1397. "LAGI."

Lanzoni, Angelo. Chief of the Office of Secretary of State. 9-24-56; # 6-324. "LANA."

Levi, Virgillio (alias Levine), Monsignor. Assistant Director of Official Vatican Newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano. Manages Vatican Radio Station. 7-4-58; # 241-3. "VILE."

Lozza, Lino. Chancellor of Rome Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas of Catholic Religion. 7-23-69; # 12-768. "LOLI."

Lienart, Achille. Cardinal. Grand Master top Mason. Bishop of Lille, France. Recruits Masons. Was leader of progressive forces at Vatican II Council.

Macchi, Pasquale. Cardinal. Pope Paul's Prelate of Honour and Private Secretary until he was excommunicated for heresy by Pope Paul VI. Was reinstated by Secretary of State Jean Villot, and made a Cardinal. 4-23-58; # 5463-2. "MAPA."

Mancini, Italo. Director of Sua Santita. 3-18-68; # 1551-142. "MANI."

Manfrini, Enrico. Lay Consultor of Pontifical Commission of Sacred Art. 2-21-68; # 968-c. "MANE."

Marchisano, Francesco. Prelate Honour of the Pope. Secretary Congregation for Seminaries and Universities of Studies. 2-4-61; 4536-3. "FRAMA."

Marcinkus, Paul. American bodyguard for imposter Pope. From Cicero, Illinois. Stands 6'4". President for Institute for Training Religious. 8-21-67; # 43-649. Called "GORILLA." Code name "MARPA."

Marsili, Salvatore. Abbot of Order of St. Benedict of Finalpia near Modena, Italy. 7-2-63; # 1278-49. "SALMA."

Mazza, Antonio. Titular Bishop of Velia. Secretary General of Holy Year, 1975. 4-14-71. # 054-329. "MANU."

Mazzi, Venerio. Member of Council of Public Affairs of the Church. 10-13-66; # 052-s. "MAVE."

Mazzoni, Pier Luigi. Congregation of Bishops. 9-14-59; # 59-2. "PILUM."

Maverna, Luigi. Bishop of Chiavari, Genoa, Italy. Assistant General of Italian Catholic Azione. 6-3-68; # 441-c. "LUMA."

Mensa, Albino. Archbishop of Vercelli, Piedmont, Italy. 7-23-59; # 53-23. "MENA."

Messina, Carlo. 3-21-70; # 21-045. "MECA."

Messina, Zanon (Adele). 9-25-68; # 045-329. "AMEZ."

Monduzzi, Dino. Regent to the Prefect of the Pontifical House. 3-11 -67; # 190-2. "MONDI."

Mongillo, Daimazio. Professor of Dominican Moral Theology, Holy Angels Institute of Roma. 2-16-69; # 2145-22. "MONDA."

Morgante, Marcello. Bishop of Ascoli Piceno in East Italy. 7-22-55; # 78-3601. "MORMA."

Natalini, Teuzo. Vice President of the Archives of Secretariat of the Vatican. 6-17-67; # 21-44d. "NATE."

Nigro, Carmelo. Rector of the Seminary, Pontifical of Major Studies. 12-21-70; # 23-154. "CARNI."

Noe, Virgillio. Head of the Sacred Congregation of Divine Worship. He and Bugnini paid 5 Protestant Ministers and one Jewish Rabbi to create the Novus Ordo Mass. 4-3-61; # 43652-21. "VINO."

Palestra, Vittorie. He is Legal Council of the Sacred Rota of the Vatican State. 5-6-43; # 1965. "PAVI."

Pappalardo, Salvatore. Cardinal. Archbishop of Palermo, Sicily. 4-15-68; # 234-07. "SALPA."

Pasqualetti, Gottardo. 6-15-60; # 4-231. "COPA."

Pasquinelli, Dante. Council of Nunzio of Madrid. 1-12-69; # 32-124. "PADA."

Pellegrino, Michele. Cardinal. Called "Protector of the Church", Archbishop of Torino (Turin, where the Holy Shroud of Jesus is kept). 5-2-60; # 352-36. "PALMI."

Piana, Giannino. 9-2-70; # 314-52. "GIPI."

Pimpo, Mario. Vicar of Office of General Affairs. 3-15-70; # 793-43. "PIMA."

Pinto, Monsignor Pio Vito. Attaché of Secretary of State and Notare of Second Section of Supreme Tribunal and of Apostolic Signature. 4-2-70; # 3317-42. "PIPIVI."

Poletti, Ugo. Cardinal. Vicar of S.S. Diocese of Rome. Controls clergy of Rome since 3-6-73. Member of Sacred Congregation of Sacraments and of Divine Worship. He is President of Pontifical

Works and Preservation of the Faith. Also President of the Liturgical Academy. 2-17-69; # 32-1425. "UPO."

Rizzi, Monsignor Mario. Sacred Congregation of Oriental Rites. Listed as "Prelate Bishop of Honour of the Holy Father, the Pope." Works under top-Mason Mario Brini in manipulating Canon Law. 9-16-69; # 43-179. "MARI," "MONMARI."

Romita, Florenzo. Was in Sacred Congregation of Clergy. 4-21-56; # 52-142. "FIRO."

Rogger, Iquine. Officer in S.S. (Diocese of Rome). 4-16-68; # 319-13. "IGRO."

Rossano, Pietro. Sacred Congregation of Non-Christian Religions. 2-12-68; # 3421-a. "PIRO."

Rovela, Virgillio. 6-12-64; # 32-14. "ROVI."

Sabbatani, Aurelio. Archbishop of Giustiniana (Giusgno, Milar Province, Italy). First Secretary Supreme Apostolic Segnatura. 6-22-69; # 87-43. "ASA"

Sacchetti, Guilio. Delegate of Governors - Marchese. 8-23-59; # 0991-b. "SAGI."

Salerno, Francesco. Bishop. Prefect Atti. Eccles. 5-4-62; # 0437-1. "SAFRA"

Santangelo, Franceso. Substitute General of Defense Legal Counsel. 11-12-70; # 32-096. "FRASA."

Santini, Pietro. Vice Official of the Vicar. 8-23-64; # 326-11. "SAPI."

Savorelli, Fernando. 1-14-69; # 004-51. "SAFE."

Savorelli, Renzo. 6-12-65; # 34-692. "RESA."

Scanagatta, Gaetano. Sacred Congregation of the Clergy. Member of Commission of Pomei and Loreto, Italy. 9-23-71; # 42-023. "GASCA."

Schasching, Giovanni. 3-18-65; # 6374-23. "GISCHA," "GESUITA."

Schierano, Mario. Titular Bishop of Acrida (Acri in Cosenza Province, Italy.) Chief Military Chaplain of the Italian Armed Forces. 7-3-59; #14-3641. "MASCHI."

Semproni, Domenico. Tribunal of the Vicarate of the Vatican. 4-16-60; # 00-12. "DOSE."

Sensi, Giuseppe Mario. Titular Archbishop of Sardi (Asia Minor near Smyrna). Papal Nunzio to Portugal. 11-2-67; # 18911-47. "GIMASE."

Sposito, Luigi. Pontifical Commission for the Archives of the Church in Italy. Head Administrator of the Apostolic Seat of the Vatican.

Suenens, Leo. Cardinal. Title: Protector of the Church of St. Peter in Chains, outside Rome. Promotes Protestant Pentecostalism (Charismatics). Destroyed much Church dogma when he worked in 3 Sacred Congregations: 1) Propagation of the Faith; 2) Rites and Ceremonies in the Liturgy; 3) Seminaries. 6-15-67; # 21-64. "LESU."

Trabalzini, Dino. Bishop of Rieti (Reate, Perugia, Italy). Auxiliary Bishop of Southern Rome. 2-6-65; # 61-956. "TRADI."

Travia, Antonio. Titular Archbishop of Termini Imerese. Head of Catholic schools. 9-15-67; # 16-141. "ATRA."

Trocchi, Vittorio. Secretary for Catholic Laity in Consistory of the Vatican State Consultations. 7-12-62; # 3-896. "TROVI."

Tucci, Roberto. Director General of Vatican Radio. 6-21-57; # 42-58. "TURO."

Turollo, David. 6-9-67; # 191-44. "DATU."

Vale, Giorgio. Priest. Official of Rome Diocese. 2-21-71; # 21-328. "VAGI."

Vergari, Piero. Head Protocol Officer of the Vatican Office Segnatura. 12-14-70; # 3241-6. "PIVE."

Villot, Jean. Cardinal. Secretary of State during Pope Paul VI. He is Camerlengo (Treasurer). "JEANNI," "ZURIGO."

Zanini, Lino. Titular Archbishop of Adrianopoli, which is Andrianopolis, Turkey. Apostolic Nuncio. Member of the Reverend Fabric of St. Peter's Basilica.

THE FOLLOWING CLERGY WERE EXPOSED AFTER THE ABOVE LIST WAS COMPILED:

Fregi, Francesco Egisto. 2-14-63; # 1435-87.

Tirelli, Sotiro. 5-16-63; # 1257-9. "TIRSO."

Cresti, Osvaldo. 5-22-63; # 1653-6. "CRESO."

Rotardi, Tito. 8-13-63; # 1865-34. "TROTA."

Orbasi, Igino. 9-17-73; # 1326-97. "ORBI."

Drusilla, Italia. 10-12-63; # 1653-2. "'DRUSI "

Ratosi, Tito. 11-22-63; # 1542-74 "TRATO."

Crosta, Sante. 11-17-63; # 1254-65. "CROSTAS."

Satan Events Foretold? "I Saw Satans' Smoke Entering the Vatican" Anne Catherine Emmerich (1774-1824), a German Augustinian nun, stigmatist (bore the wounds of Christ), and miracle-worker, who subsisted entirely on water and Holy Communion for many years, received numerous visions of the future crisis in the Church and the infiltration of the Masons. In her visions, she describes men in aprons destroying the Church with a trowel, The Masons wear aprons and their symbol is the Mason's trowel. The following excerpts are from page 565 of Life of Anne Catherine Emmerich, Vol. 1, by Rev. K.E. Schmö:ger, Tan Books, 1976:

"I saw St. Peter's. A great crowd of men was trying to pull it down whilst others constantly built it up again. Lines connected these

men one with another and with others throughout the whole world. I was amazed at their perfect understanding.

"The demolishers, mostly apostates and members of different sects, broke off whole pieces and worked according to rules and instructions. They wore WHITE APRONS bound with blue riband. In them were pockets and they had TROWELS stuck in their belts. The costumes of the others were various.

"There were among the demolishers distinguished men wearing uniforms and crosses. They did not work themselves but they marked out on the wall with a TROWEL where and how it should be torn down. To my horror, I saw among them Catholic Priests. Whenever the workmen did not know how to go on, they went to a certain one in their party. He had a large book which seemed to contain the whole plan of the building and the way to destroy it. They marked out exactly with a TROWEL the parts to be attacked, and they soon came down. They worked quietly and confidently, but slyly, furtively and warily. I saw the Pope praying, surrounded by false friends who often did the very opposite to what he had ordered..."

In God's Name by David Yallop The Rise and Fall of the Bulgarian Connection, by Edward S. Herman and Frank Brodhead Gods Banker Windswept House by Malachi Martin

P2 in the News

Italy/Argentina/Brazil - Propaganda Due (P2) Membership List (All Experts Encyclopedia Entry) - 08/01/07

Italy - Italy faces new political crisis over 'tax spying' - 28/10/06

Italy - The Economist: Murky goings on - The Mafia, Berlusconi, Fininvest, and P2 Masonic Lodge - 29/06/06

Italy/U.K. - Calvi Trial to Expose 'Dark' Side of Italian History - 23/11/05

Italy/U.K. - The case of God's Banker: Roberto Calvi the trial begins - 06/10/05

Italy - 'God's Banker' murder trial opens - 06/10/05

Italy - Italy opens trial into death of "God's banker" - 06/10/05

Italy - Key facts on Roberto Calvi murder trial - 06/10/05

Italy - P2 Grand Master Lucio Gelli probed in Roberto Calvi murder - 20/07/05

U.K. - On This Day May 26: 1981 Italian Government Resigns - 26/05/05

U.K. - London Police change Ruling on Roberto Calvi death from Suicide to Murder - 20/05/05

Italy/U.K. - Four face trial over 1982 death of banker - 19/04/05

Italy/U.K. - Four indicted in death of 'God's banker' - 19/04/05

Italy/U.K. - P2 Masonic Conspiracy: Four Charged in Murder of Roberto Calvi - 18/04/05

Italy/U.K./U.S.A. - Four indicted over 1982 murder with links to Chicago archdiocese (Print and Video) - 18/04/05

Holy See - Italian Panel Reopens Probe Into '81 Attack on Pope After John Paul II's Revelations in His Latest Book - 24/02/05

Italy - God's Banker death mystery deepens as coroner robbed of files in Rome - 04/05/04

Italy/U.K. - Mafia squad probe Calvi bag theft - 04/05/04

U.K./Italy - An end to the mystery of God's Banker? - 31/03/04

Italy - Four go on trial for murder of God's banker - 17/03/04

U.K. - Who killed Calvi? - 07/12/03

Italy - Mafia trial over Calvi - 16/10/03

U.K. - London Police begin Roberto Calvi Murder Investigation - 21 years after Banker was found hanging under Black Friars Bridge - 01/10/03

E.U. - Prodi shrugs off EU scandal over missing millions and Freemason Franchet - 26/09/03

E.U. - O.L.A.F. anti-fraud unit to examine roll of Masons in European Union Government - 02/12/02

Italy-U.K.-Canada - Family finds vindication in their campaign after Italian Coroner rules Roberto Calvi's death was murder, not suicide - 04/11/02

E.U. - CIA and Freemasons among dark forces in Europe - 24/09/02

Italy - Has P2 launched a new terror killing spree in Italy? - 01/05/02

Italy: Berlusconi: The power of personality - 14/05/01

Turkey-Vatican-U.S.S.R.-U.S.A. The 1981 Assassination Attempt of Pope John Paul II, The Grey Wolves, and Turkish & U.S. Government Intelligence Agencies - 14/05/01

U.K. New evidence that Hess died with Duke of Kent in 42' plane crash - 21/04/01

Switzerland: Rothschild Bank AG Zurich tied to Calvi Murder and P2 Masonic Lodge - 07/03/01

U.K.: Professor of Freemasonry to probe murky past of Masonic Brotherhood - 01/07/00

Italy: Operation Gladio, Clockwork Orange, and P2 - 21/05/00

Vatican-Columbia: Priest who fought Freemasons beatified by the Pope - 09/04/00

Germany-Canada: Schreiber: The man who would topple kings - 14/01/00

Italy-U.K.: 'God's Banker' exhumed - 16/12/98

Italy-U.K.: Body of 'God's banker' to be exhumed - 10/11/98

Italy-U.K.: Light to be Thrown on Murky Death of Italian Banker Calvi - 10/11/98

Italy-France.: Gelli deported back to Italy - 16/10/98

France: Gelli extradition approved - 07/10/98

Italy-France: Gelli attempted suicide - 14/09/98

Italy-France: Gold found in Gelli's plantpots - 13/09/98

Italy-France: Fugitive Italian banker arrested - 11/09/98

Italy: Italian Justice Minister Quits in Scandal Over Masonic Lodge - 23/05/81

Conspiracy Archive - Secret Societies, Cryptocracy and Deep Politics
<http://www.conspiracyarchive.com/2013/11/27/17/>

Operation Hiram: Italian Freemasonry and the Mafia

27 Nov, 2013

By, Terry Melanson

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Back in June 2008 there was a story (in English) about the Italian authorities having concluded an investigation “into attempts to slow down legal proceedings against members of the mafia with the help of members of the Freemasonry”:

(AGI) - Palermo, June 17 - Eight ‘prominent’ arrests were made by the police of Trapani and Agrigento last night, the conclusion of an investigation by the Anti-mafia District Department of Palermo into attempts to slow down legal proceedings against members of the mafia with the help of members of the Freemasonry. One of the arrested is Michele Accomando, entrepreneur in Mazara del Vallo (Trapani), already arrested in 2007, charged with mafia membership. The man is member of the loggia “Gran Serenissima” of the Freemasonry of Trapano. An official of the Finance Ministry working in Agrigento, Calogero Licata was also arrested, as well as a businessman from Agrigento, Nicola Sorrentino, and an employee of the Court of Cassation, Guido Peparaio, employee of the registrar’s office of the second penal section of the Court of Cassation. But according to the investigators the key figure is another arrested, the Roman wheeler-dealer Rodolfo Grancini.

Also arrested are a gynaecologist from Palermo, Renato De Gregorio, who would have been favoured through the delay of his case in Cassation, and a policewoman, Francesca Surdo, secretary of the director of the operational central Service of the State police.

There were more details in the proceeding days, but most of it was in Italian. From what I was able to gather at the time, the task force

was dubbed (cleverly) Operation Hiram [Operazione Hiram]. There was at least one mobster-mason Michele Accomando arrested, and Calogero Licata, Nicola Sorrentino, Guido Peparao, Rodolfo Grancini and Renato De Gregorio may well have been Freemasons too. The Grand Master of the Grand Orient of Italy, Gustavo Raffi was in the press, promising to protect the reputation of Freemasonry and that the latter would observe the criminal proceedings as a civil party; one of the suspects was Grand Master Stefano De Carolis of the Serene Grand Lodge 'Unita d'Italia'; also implicated was a Jesuit Priest from Rome, Father Ferruccio Romanin. (Sources: Chi sono gli arrestati; and the Grand Lodge of Italy's archive of press coverage.) Another English account, on the same day:

Palermo, 17 June (AKI) - Police on Tuesday raided Italy's highest appeals court, in an ongoing anti-Mafia probe that led to eight arrests on Monday, according to Italian daily La Repubblica's website.

The probe is investigating alleged collusion between Mafia bosses and members of masonic lodges to delay trials pending at Italy's court of cassation.

Under Italy's statute of limitations, cases automatically lapse after a certain period of time if the trial has not been completed.

Anti-Mafia police carried out searches at the court of cassation's headquarters in the capital, Rome, La Repubblica said.

A court employee was among the eight people arrested late on Monday. Charges against the suspects include Mafia association, perversion of the course of justice, embezzlement, illegally accessing court computer systems and disclosing confidential information.

Those arrested include a woman police officer, a gynaecologist from Palermo, entrepreneurs from Agrigento and the western Sicilian coastal city of Trapani.

The gynaecologist, whom an appeals court has convicted on charges of violent sexual acts against a female minor, allegedly paid substantial bribes to have his case at the court of cassation shelved, La Repubblica said.

The medic's case has been with the court for three years, La Repubblica reported.

Dozens of police searches are continuing as part of the anti-Mafia probe, dubbed 'Hiram', which began in 2006 when police investigated several Mafia families in Trapani.

The probe involves anti-Mafia investigators from Trapani, the southern Sicilian city of Agrigento, Rome and the central Italian city of Terni, according to La Repubblica.

This is nothing new for Italian Freemasonry. P2 (Propaganda Due) is the most famous example of Freemasonic conspiracy in Italy, but there is a book by Peter T. Schneider which goes into specific details on Italian Masonry's history of collusion with the Mafia. Here, then, are some choice excerpts from Reversible Destiny: Mafia, Antimafia, and the Struggle for Palermo (pp. 75-77):

"[T]he plotters of the 1970s [Borghese] coup ... forged their anticommunist alliance by transforming certain masonic lodges into meeting places" (75)

Important Mob boss Salvatore Greco ('The Engineer') is said to have "joined the Garibaldi Lodge in 1946." Another mobster (Antonino Cottone), a relative of the latter, was known to have been a member of another lodge from '44-'56. (76)

Another mafioso-mason was Nino Salvo; his "brother Alberto also belonged." As "the Corleonesi gained ascendancy in the 1980s, Riina engaged a Palermitan, Pino Mandalari, as his accountant and business advisor. Both Mandalari and Siino, his 'minister of public works,' were at once masons and collusive with the mafia." (76)

"[M]asons wanted to form a coalition with the mafia's highest-ranking members ... Michele Greco (cousin of Salvatore) and Bontade himself were chosen from ... Palermo, Pippo Calderone ... from Catania." (76)

"According to the former grandmaster of the Grande Oriente, Giuliano DiBernardo, during the years 1976-80, mafiosi competed to become masons ... it was the drug mafia's way of approaching and infiltrating power." (76)

"[I]deologues were joining the super-secret lodges and so were mafiosi." (76)

During the "long 1980s" the names of masonic lodges became "watchwords in the press." Readers of the papers knew, for instance, that "the sign, 'Centro Sociologico Italiano,' posted on the door of a palazzo ... is actually a cover for five lodges that hold their meetings inside. The secret lodges in Trapani, the second most significant 'mafia city,' meet under the cover of the Circolo Scontrino ..." (77)

The Antimafia Commission reported in 1986 that "there were '2,441 men of honor [Mafiosi]...distributed among 113 lodges in

Sicily.' Of these, 33 [how symbolic!] were indicted or convicted, and another 335 figured in various police records." (77) [bold emphasis mine]

Former mobster -turned-informant, Siino revealed the "covert lodges where bosses and politicians, businessmen and bureaucrats, sat around a table ... to divide up the public contracts, juggling the input of a wider circle of elected officials, 'red' cooperatives, Carabinieri, magistrates, and north Italian entrepreneurs." (77)

The '80s also saw a "growing entanglement between 'mafia-masons' and the state-authorized secret services." (77) ... enter P2.

Masonry and the Mafia are so intertwined in Italy that the initiation rituals of the Craft have even undergone a Mob-fication of sorts. In the Masonic Lodge in Trapani, Sicily, for example, the initiator and initiate cut their wrists, place them against each other, and kiss one another on the lips. Former Sicilian mobster, Leonardo Messina, has said: "Many uomini d'onore, in particular those who succeed in becoming Mafia bosses, belong to the freemasonry...because it is in the freemasonry that they can have total relationships with the entrepreneurs and with the Institutions." (See Donatella Della Porta, Alberto Vannucci, Corrupt Exchanges: Actors, Resources, and Mechanisms of Political Corruption, Aldine Transaction, 1999, p. 168.)

Tags: Corruption, Cosa Nostra, Freemasonry, Grand Orient

Terry Melanson: Webmaster/editor of Conspiracy Archive and Bavarian Illuminati info; author of Perfectibilists: the 18th Century Bavarian Order of the Illuminati.

Further Reading:

Freemasonry Watch: The Mafia and Freemasonry

Freemasonry Watch: St. Peter's Squared - Roberto Calvi and the P2 Masonic Lodge Conspiracy

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